# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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# MISSIONARIES IN JAPAN "GET BACK TO BASICS" "There's more going on in Japan than you can see"

SAPPORO, Japan - Everyone agrees. Japan is perhaps one of the world's least-responsive countries to

the gospel.
Missionaries are working. Japanese Christians are working. God is working. But the Japanese people aren't yet responding in large numbers.

Nobody knows that better than mis-

sionaries Tom and Karol Whaley. The gospel of Jesus Christ may find few listeners in cosmopolitan Tokyo, but it falls on deaf ears in traditional Sapporo, where the Whaleys work as church planters.

In eight years working in Sapporo, the Whaleys have seen just eight people accept Christ. And only five of those followed through with baptism. A former pastor in rural Colorado,

Tom Whaley remembers how he could go anywhere to meet people: a coun-try store, the post office, or nearby

Country stores don't exist in many parts of a country where 135 million people cramp into a place the size of California.

And ranches are scarce in a place where the price of land in the Tokyo-

Yokohoma area alone is valued at more than all of North America.

How to build strong relationships with the Japanese has always been a tough nut for missionaries to crack. The Whaleys have tried many

in their own backyard and in two Sap-poro parks. With other missionaries, they held concerts, billed as. "American Singers Concert," in their own backyard, in rented halls in Sapporo and in seven cities across Hoko Island.

Twice a month, the missionaries choose a neighborhood Japanese family to invite to their house for a meal and a night of games.

Karol has parties in her home where all the ladies — 18 last time bring kimonos and dress up. Nearly every week she invites women to her house for a coffee party. And she teaches American cooking, something Japanese women are very curious about. She also goes with Japanese friends to movies and concerts and attends flower-arranging workshops and tea-ceremony classes

— two favorites among Japanese

The Whaleys even taught English classes, enrolling more than 100 people each over the past four years in their English Bible Center. Even though they taught the Bible and gave a verbal witness in all the classes, people mainly came to study English.

Over the last two years, only two people made professions of faith from their English classes. And when the

They used a new concept for the Japanese — Vacation Bible School — were interested in a Bible study, only four people responded positively.

four people responded positively.
So after a lot of prayer and soulsearching, the Whaleys decided this past January to get back to basics.
They closed the English center and now only teach Bible studies.

"We put the shingle out: we are Bible teachers," says Tom Whaley. "We'll study the Bible, one-on-one, with anybody — in English or Japanese. We'll adjust our schedule to fit their needs. People know up front the text-book is the Bible, and we will study about God, about salvation, about commitment."

Tom adds that the people "we are now studying the Bible with are people who are seeking. We think we will see results soon from that."

Since the Whaleys have gone to a "one-on-one" approach, Karol now teaches five Bible classes with seven women altogether, and Tom has two classes with one man in each session.

While trying to build relationships with the Japanese, they laid the foun-dation with Shiroishi Baptist Church to sponsor a new church start. But the

congregation had just 30 members and was without a pastor.

""We were so discouraged, and the Lord just worked it all out," explains Karol. "(The church) said, "We're behind you. We can't give any money. We can't give you even one of our 30 people. But go for it."

With that "blessing" from their mother church, the Whaleys started Open Door Chapel in the garage of their house, refurbished with funds from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions.

Now the Open Door Chapel — with 13 members and more than 20 attending worship services — is outgrowing its space in the Whaleys' house. The missionaries hope to soon call again on Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funding to provide a larger meeting

and try new things. They have plans for a Weekday Kids Club which they hope will become the youth Bible

study for Open Door Chapel.

Also, the Whaleys are looking at starting Bible studies in other areas of Sapporo with the possibility that

those will become church starts.

After eight hard years in Japan, the Whaleys say they "have learned to let God be God."

Tom quickly adds: "The spiritual renewal is coming, but we're all still praying because it hasn't come yet. Still, there's more going on (in Japan) than you can see. I feel like my hands are untied, and the sky's the limit."

Chute write for FMB.



HEALING HANDS - A Christian friend of Tom and Karol Whaley, Kurunuma, performs acupressure on Tom's hand after a meeting of young adults at Sapporo (Japan) Baptist Church. Acupressure is similar to acupuncture, except Kurunuma, who is blind, uses the fingers instead of needles to relieve muscle pain. The Whaleys work with the church's youth minister, who offers an English course and fellowship for young adults at Sapporo's leading church once a week. (FMB photo by Warren Johnson)

# Billy Graham caps most intensive year

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Dec. 9 -Evangelist Billy Graham has completed one of the most intensive years of his ministry, preaching to over one million people in person and additionally to more than five million who attended satellite crusades in 21

Graham celebrated his 73rd birth-day in October and his schedule showed no signs of slowing down. Repeatedly asked about any retirement plans, Graham continues to rep ly, "I can find no place in the Bible where any of God's servants retired. So, I'll keep on going until God removes me. At this time, my health is excellent - I'm feeling good."

During the past 12 months, he has held a regional satellite crusade from Buenos Aires, meetings in three cities in Scotland, and three domestic Still the Whaleys dream dreams outreaches including a crowd of nd try new things. They have plans 250,000 in New York City's Central Park — his largest North American audience.

He also held a first-ever school for pastors in Moscow. During his travels this year, he met privately with world leaders including Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian republic, and Argentine President Carlos Menem.

Graham's latest book, Hope for the Troubled Heart, was published in September and is already fourth on the religious best-seller list. It is a practical presentation of the straightforward gospel message he has preached in 84 countries for over 50



"Over the past year, I've been en-couraged by developments around the world for which we have prayed, such as the recent Middle East peace talks and the long-awaited release of all the U.S. hostages - which indicate a move toward world peace," Graham

"However, at this time of the year when we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, let us remember that he alone can bring lasting peace peace with God, peace among men and nations, and peace within our own hearts — and he transcends the political and social boundaries of our



FRIENDS — Osanami Akiko (left) and Karol Whaley look over the program before a concert of the Hokkaido University Alumni Orchestra in Sapporo, Japan. The two women often invite each other to community activities. A non-Christian, Akiko attends. one of the seven Bible studies the Southern Baptist missionary teaches. They first met during one of Karol's Bible studies attended by Akiko's mother. Nobody in Akiko's family is Christian, but like most young Japanese, she knows little about Buddhism either. She has to ask her mother questions about that faith. Karol feels that if the mother won't accept Christ, then maybe the daughter will. (FMB photo by Warren

# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

My mission

Lt. Hiroo Onoda of the Imperial speak to Onoda at a distance, then Japanese Army was trained in psychological warfare. In early 1945 he was sent to Lubang Island in the Philippines. He was told the enemy would try to trick him into surrendering, to pay no attention to events or even to word from other Japanese. "Your mission is important, do not surrender," was his order.

Onoda obeyed and became the hold out with the longest duration. He remained a hold out until 1975. His unit surrendered but he continued to hold out. Japanese newspapers, tapes, and new orders were dropped for him to find. He ignored all of them. Even his own father came and flew over the jungles in a helicopter, and by means of a loud speaker, begged his son to come out. Onoda thought it to be another trick.

The Lubang people knew he was there and even tried to befriend him. Occasionally he would steal a chicken, or get clothes off someone's clothes line. The Filipinos would place Christmas gifts on the trail and after

a few days they would disappear.
Finally, a Japanese reporter went
after him. He left a trail of notes, magazines, and pictures where Onoda want to associate with "the people out would find them. Soon he was able to there" so "with our kind of people" we magazines, and pictures where Onoda

face to face. Onoda saw his first mirror in 30 years and jumped at the strange looking man. Onoda, after 30 years, finally whispered the words, "I will surrender."

They walked to the port of Lubang. Along the way Filipinos waved to him, several presented him with mangoes or papayas. In general, he was warmly received. I was in Manila and via television saw Lt. Onoda surrender his sword to President Marcos. He said, "My mission was uppermost on my mind. It was my support."

Wasted years! A life spent following the warped orders of military men long dead. Such a great faith misdirected. Then the sorrow of living so long among warm, friendly people and he never knew them. He robbed himself of friends, family, and human companionship. Fenced in by a blind hatred for the "enemy" he became a hermit without hope. Barriers of long standing shielded him from the people of the solution of the solu standing shielded him from the people and also encased him in his jungle

Is it possible that we can insulate ourselves in the same way? We don't erect our barriers. They keep out the poor, the homeless, the hungry. They also keep us protected from the spiritually lost person. In our little righteous ghetto we live beyond and apart, thanking God we are better than someone else. This year we could change all of that. We could be involved in ministries with the down and out or the up and out. We could identify more with the prodigal son rather than stand by the older brother whispering, "Amen."

Guy Henderson

whispering, "Amen."
We can live out our lives with a barrier of church people around us, never having to deal with the people "who need a physician." "My mission was uppermost in my mind," said Onoda. "This one thing I do," said Paul, "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:14).

Incidentally, Onoda, returned to

Incidentally, Onoda returned to Japan but was miserable. He could not adjust to all the changes in his homeland. He migrated to Brazil to work on a Japanese-owned ranch in the interior. Even there, apparently there were too many people. The jungle beckoned to Onoda. One day he stepped into the jungle and disappeared. To my knowledge, no one has heard from Onoda since then.



# Dilday says reaccreditation shows best days ahead for Southwestern

FORT WORTH, Texas - Two accrediting agencies have completed their work and awarded reaccreditation for the next 10 years to Southwestern Seminary, according to officials at the Fort Worth school.

Southwestern, which received reaccreditation from the Association of Theological Schools last spring, was notified Dec. 16 by officials from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools that the seminary has received its approval.

"This affirms what we already knew — that Southwestern Seminary is in good shape, strong and ready for the best years in the history of the school," President Russell Dilday said.

Trustee Chairman Jim Bolton of Dallas said the reaccreditation reflects the "positive leadership of the administration of the seminary. I don't expect anything but better days

Countering warnings that Southern Baptist seminaries have become immobilized and are headed toward the dark ages, Dilday said positive reports from the two accrediting agencies, improved relations with trustees, creative new academic programs, and recent additions to the school's faculty are evidence the seminary is moving forward with its

strategic plan called Vision For Ex-Seminary are just ahead."

Bruce Corley, dean of the school of es. I believe that the future of our

theology, said recent statements that the Southern Baptist controversy has immobilized Southwestern are not accurate. "We are not under siege and we are not disheartened," he said. "We are not frustrated and we are not

By Scott Collins

Echoing that sentiment, William Tolar, Southwestern's vice president for academic affairs and provost, said anyone who questions the work being done at the seminary should visit the

"If they would be willing to come to the seminary and talk with the students and faculty, they would find that this is misinformation," Tolar

Tolar believes Southwestern has avoided serious problems because of the school's reputation.

We have a reputation as loving and believing the Bible," he said. "Students hear from our professors a deep love for the Bible and a commitment to Jesus Christ. We are grounded in a Bible-centered curriculum. We did not elevate the critical problems above our theology."

Another factor contributing to Southwestern's stability is improved relations with the board of trustees, Dilday said.

"The relationship between the board and administration has moved Those factors, combined with the mutual affirmation," Dilday said. "The trustees elected in the last few cellence, give Dilday confidence that years have brought needed financial the "best days of Southwestern and investment skills as well as awareness of the needs of our church-

board and its relationship with the administration will be positive."

Threats to the Cooperative Program and a stagnant economy do pose problems, Dilday said. However, because the seminary is debt-free and has operated in the black, he said Southwestern has managed to maintain sound financial health.

Another concern, Dilday said, is declining enrollments at all six Southern Baptist seminaries. While Southwestern has maintained its status as the largest seminary in the world, the total number of students enrolled at the school has dropped each year for the past six years.

Dilday said a number of factors have contributed to the decline, including a smaller pool of prospective students and negative publicity about Christian ministers.

Another factor, he said, is the growing number of seminaries and divinischools being started as a result of the Southern Baptist controversy.

'We feel these (schools) are unnecessary and the convention was wise to establish six of these institutions scattered geographically," Dil-

Dilday said critics on all sides of the SBC controversy should look objectively at Southwestern.

'People have become so emotionalnvoived with the controversy that it is hard for them to admit that good work can still be done in our schools. They are conveniently overlooking the fact that our school is in its best years," Dilday said.

Collins is PR writer, SWBTS.

## Church safety

By Guy Henderson

For some time churches have been warned to adopt better emergency methods and fire codes. Hilda Hill of Tupelo is with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. She works with rural fire departments in northeast Mississippi. She is a Baptist, age 62, and grew up in Sunbeams and other activities in the church. Hill says rural area fire departments maintain that churches are the hardest group to work with in fire codes.

Churches should have an emergency plan for evacuation in case of fire, tornadoes, etc. The use of candles, overloaded wiring, artificial flowers, trees, especially live trees like pine and cedar, are fires looking for a place to happen. Narrow passage ways, doors opening in the wrong direction, placing the elderly or children in upstairs rooms, basements, or other areas difficult to evacuate, can be dangerous, Water pipes in rural areas are two inches in diameter, whereas city water pipes are six inches, thus rural water pressure is low, inhibiting fire departments. Very few churches have fire extinguishers in well-defined areas. Flammable liquids are in

closets and kitchen areas. Open, unguarded gas heaters can be found in some churches

Suggestions offered by Preferred Risk Insurance and the Annuity Board:

- Invite the fire department to inspect your church on a regular basis.

 Make and follow through on a thorough check list to prevent fires, accidents, and implement safety procedures.

Unoccupied buildings during the week can be an invitation to arsonists, burglars, and vandals. Good lighting, alarm systems, locked doors/windows can help prevent all three.

Arsonists work mostly at night. Ask the police to patrol the grounds and Neighborhood Watch or Crime Stoppers can help.

Check for areas where the elderly can slip or fall. Ragged carpet, unmarked steps, absence of wall rails can ruin you in this area.

Check on church vehicles, drivers' authorizations, storage, and maintenance.

 Make safety a priority item.
 Churches should set the example in good maintenance and safety control.

### Baptists, missionaries help AIDS orphans

missionaries in Tanzania are developing a nationwide ministry to orphans of AIDS victims. The AIDS ministry initiative resulted from a growing awareness of the tragic effects of the AIDS epidemic in Tanzania. The

IRINGA, Tanzania - Baptists and World Health Organization estimates up to 8 million cases of AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. One in 40 women in the region carries the AIDS virus, compared to one in 700 women in North America, according to the

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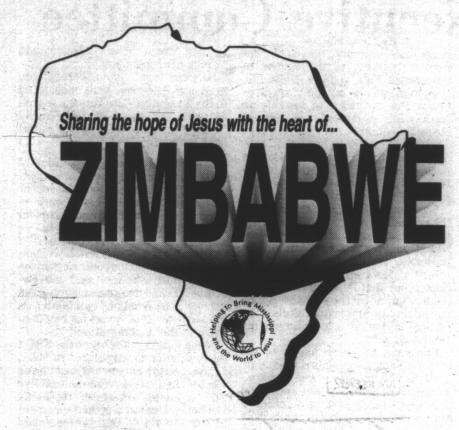
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# Zimbabwe Partnership office is open and bustling



The newly-formed Mississippi-Zimbabwe Partnership office is now open and bustling. The project coordinator, Bill Hardy, who recently retired as treasurer of the Wyoming Baptist Convention, is in place at the Baptist Building in Jackson and already a number of projects are

The partnership consists of aiding the African nation's Baptists with evangelism, teaching, and construc-tion ministries. The first evangelistic team traveled there last fall. The sec-ond of the teams will go on Jan. 20, returning on Feb. 6.

This team will consist of five preachers and five laypersons. The preachers are Malcolm Pinion, pastor of Mantee Church, Mantee, serving as team leader; Leroy Brewer, pastor of New Zion Church, Crystal Springs; Jack Maroon, pastor of First Church, Belmont; Johnny Walker, pastor of First Church, Winona; and Doug Broome, pastor of Calvary, Church Broome, pastor of Calvary Church, Waynesboro. The laypersons are Fae

(Mrs. Jack) Maroon of First Church, Belmont; Dan Davis of Mantee Church; Wallace Norman of First United Methodist Church, Houston; Mrs. June Noland of First Church, Mantee; and Mrs. Joetta Tillman of

By Tim Nicholas

First Church, Houston. The volunteers will be divided into

teams, each team conducting two revival meetings. Each will work closely with Southern Baptist missionaries. Currently, there are 70 missionaries assigned to Zimbabwe.

Each person is providing for his or her own expenses which total \$2,350 and covers travel to the field, travel in Zimbabwe, insurance, baggage and transfer fees. Local hosts provide hospitality.

Field coordinators Hiram and Shirley Powell, who are slated to live in Zimbabwe for the three year partnership, are ready to go as soon as work permits become available.

Several other projects are underway.

Roger Swann, a certified public accountant from First Church, Columbia, is slated to travel to Zimbabwe in late January. He will audit the books of the Baptist Convention of Zim-babwe, the Baptist Hospital at Sanyati, the Baptist Youth Depart-

ment, and others as time allows.

The Sunday School Department is enlisting children's and youth workers to conduct activities during the annual mission meeting in April. Also, a pastor and his wife are tentatively set to lead Bible studies for the meeting and work with the children.

One project is enlisting specialized persons to teach in the Harare Polytechnic Institute for a period from one term to two years and be involved in a local Baptist church.

The next revival team is scheduled for March 12-25. This team is being enlisted now by the Evangelism Department of the convention board.

Hardy says that "Any volunteer feeling a commitment to missions and a desire to serve should contact the Mississippi-Zimbabwe Project office at the convention board." Volunteers will be assisted with preparations, in-formation, and orientation, but each is to bear his or her own expense.

By Chip Alford

NASHVILLE (BP) — A record number of college students were reached through Southern Baptist student ministry programs in 1991, though the number of full-time directors of Baptist campus ministries declined.

According to the 1991 Student Ministry Report compiled by the Bap-tist Sunday School Board's Student Ministry Department from informa-tion sent in by state directors of student ministry, 192,680 students were reached through Baptist student ministry programs in 1991, up more than 3,000 students over the 1990 total of 189,410.

In contrast, the number of full-time directors of Baptist student ministries decreased from 525 in 1990 to 499 in 1991, and the total number of directors (including full-time, part-time, and volunteer workers) dropped from 979 in 1990 to 949 in 1991.

The number of campuses with stu-

### Okinawa Baptists celebrate 100 years

NAHA, Okinawa — More than 800 Okinawa Baptists gathered at the Pacific Hotel in Naha recently to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Baptist work on the island of Okinawa. Baptist work began there in 1891 when the American Baptist Convention-affiliated Japan Baptist Union sent Japanese evangelist Michinoshuke Hara to Okinawa from mainland Japan.

In 1955, the Southern Baptist Convention-related Japan Baptist Convention sent its first missionary couple to work on the island. American Baptists also sent a missionary couple that year. Southern Baptist missionaries Alvin and Doris Spencer moved there in 1960.

Today 28 churches and nine missions with 2,500 members worship there. Eleven Southern Baptist missionaries and two American Baptist missionaries cooperatively work with dent ministry programs also declined from 1,036 in 1990 to 1,009 in 1991.

"We do have fewer laborers in the field, but (these figures) do speak well for the work they are doing," said David Hazelwood, planning and projects coordinator for the Sunday School Board's Student Ministry Department. "I hope this means we are doing more with less and doing more only in fewer places."

The report, which was distributed o state convention directors of student ministry during their annual December planning meetings in Nashville, also showed a slight decrease in the number of student conversions through Baptist Student

That number totaled 6,597 in 1990 and fell to 6,465 in 1991.

The number of students involved in witness training, however, was up from 12,508 in 1990 to 13,186 in 1991.

Student involvement in missions also was up, from 26,484 in 1990 to 27,751 in 1991.

The report also showed:

- 10,373 African American students were involved in Baptist student ministry programs in 1991, up from 733 in 1990.

- A drop in the number of other ethnic students involved (such as Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Native Americans), from 6,273 in 1990 to 5,766 in 1991. The number of international students participating in BSU also was down, from 12,039 in 1990 to 10,720 in 1991.

Students helped start 182 churches, Sunday Schools or missions in 1991, down from 195 in 1990.

 Students helped strengthen 3,342 established churches, Sunday Schools or missions through teaching or help-ing with or leading outreach programs, revivals, surveys, music programs, Vacation Bible Schools, and other programs. This is up from the 1990 total of 3,253.

39,726 students were involved in Bible study groups in 1991, up from 38,346 in 1990.

Alford writes for BSSB.

# The Second Front Page Student ministry reaches The Baptist Record number in 1991 The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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# Exec Committee search narrows; Chapman leads

NASHVILLE (BP) - Southern **Baptist Convention President Morris** Chapman is the leading candidate to succeed Harold C. Bennett as president/treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, according to sources close to the search committee.

However, Julian Motley, a Durham, N.C. pastor and chairman of the Executive Committee's search committee, said a final decision is not expected until later this month. Asked by Baptist Press if Chapman is the committee's choice, Motley said the committee has looked at a number of people but is not ready to make a decision public.

"It is my hope, by the end of the month, we will be able to officially identify the recommendation of the committee," Motley said. The 10-member search committee will make a recommendation to the Feb. 17-19 regular meeting of the Executive Committee.

However, several Executive Committee members, who do not want to be identified, have said Chapman will be the committee's recommendation. Motley said he has been called by a number of reporters regarding the speculation but would neither confirm nor deny the report.

Bennett announced at an Executive Committee meeting in Atlanta in June that he would retire Oct. 1, 1992. He would continue as a consultant until Oct. 1, 1993. Bennett, 67, has held the executive position since 1979, only the fourth person to hold that position.

The president/treasurer of the Executive Committee heads a small staff but, as chief executive, helps guide the committee which distributes funds, to 19 various SBC agencies and entities, received from state conventions and churches. For the 1991-92 budget year the committee expects to distribute more than \$140 million in Cooperative Program Press.

funds. The committee also acts for the SBC "ad interim" in all matters "not otherwise provided for."

Chapman, 51, has been pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, nearly 13 years. He was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans in June of 1990 and re-elected at Atlanta in June of

A native of Kosciusko, Miss., Chapman is a graduate of Mississippi College and has master of divinity and doctor of ministries degrees from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. Prior to Wichita Falls, Chapman was a pastor in Albuquerque, N.M., Waco, and Rogers, Texas.

His wife, Jodi, was a member of the SBC Peace Committee and a trustee of the Baptist Sunday School Board. They have two children, Chris and Stephanie.

Hollinger is director of Baptist

## Baptist addresses Catholic bishops of Europe

ROME — In an unprecedented Dec. 2 address to the 180 Roman Catholic bishops of Europe, Baptist leader Karl-Heinz Walter declared that Bap-tists stand for the Bible, missions, religious freedom, and separation of church and state. Walter, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation, was the only "free church" representative among non-

Catholic leaders invited to the special their status to prevent Baptists and Bishops' Synod on the re-evangelization of Europe. Pope John Paul II presided over the conference. Walter explained to the bishops that Baptists emphasize the Bible, evangelism, missions, education, and service.

He also appealed to the bishops influence in their nations - not to use

other Christians from enjoying equal rights. "As Baptists, we insist on separation of church and state," he said, adding, "The majority churches should take care that religious laws are written so as to guarantee equal rights, not only for other religions but many of whom wield major political for all Christian denominations as



### Mended Hearts honors Kilgore, MBMC

The Mended Hearts organization honored Thomas Kilgore, cardiovascular surgeon, and Mississippi Baptist Medical Center for their 20th anniversary of cardiac surgery. Kilgore performed the first heart surgery at MBMC in 1971. This was the first surgery performed in a private hospital in the state. Pictured from left are Kent Strum, MBMC executive director; Paul Pryor, MBMC executive director emeritus; Howard Kerce, chapter president of Mended Hearts; and Kilgore.

## Bush thanked for stance

WASHINGTON Evangelical Christian leaders, including Richard D. Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, thanked President George Bush during a recent pro-life ceremony for using his authority to protect federal pro-life policies.

"I want to express my appreciation on behalf of Southern Baptists for the President's declaring National Sanctity of Human Life Day," Land said. "Having a signing ceremony in the oval office gives the kind of highprofile, focused leadership on this issue from the President that is so important in defining the critical nature of the right-to-life issue in our nation."

The group expressed appreciation to President Bush for blocking congressional attempts to overturn antibortion regulations, Land said. During 1991, the President again

Susie Burns of Harmony Church,

Crystal Springs, said, "This is my third

time, and I love it. I've been helping with

the counseling and you meet great peo-

ple. You can see God in the lives of the

people on program and that encourages

you. You can also find answers to your

kept his commitment to veto efforts to weaken pro-life policies.

Jan. 19 is recognized as 1992 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday in the Southern Baptist Convention as well as by the Christian Action Council.

Jan. 22 is the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, which legalized abortion.

In the proclamation, President Bush referred to the Declaration of Independence, calling the right to life the "first and most fundamental right enumerated by our nation's founders." He praised volunteers at crisis pregnancy centers and women who choose to give birth to their unborn children. The President called on the country to renew its "determination to ensure that all, born and unborn, receive the protection and care they

# Chapman eyed for top spot. at SBC Executive Committee

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP) — make its recommendation during the Texas pastor Morris Chapman is the regular meeting of the Executive choice of the committee seeking a Committee Feb. 17-19 in Nashville. new chief executive for the Southern Baptist Convention, according to

sources close to the process.

Chapman, who is the current SBC president and a leader of the controlling fundamental-conservative faction, could be elected president-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee the SBC's most influential post — as early as February, according to committee source

The powerful Executive Committee, based in Nashville, Tenn., is the SBC's primary administrative body, drafting the denomination's \$140 million annual Cooperative Program budget and acting for the convention between annual sessions.

If recommended and elected as the SBC's top executive, the 51-year-old Chapman would succeed Harold Bennett, 67, who will retire in October after 12 years in the job.

Several members of the search committee declined to say whether

Chapman would be the nominee. But one Executive Committee member. who spoke on condition of anonymity, told Associated Baptist Press: "I think you have a good story. I think you have an accurate story."

According to sources close to the

search, the committee decided in December to pursue Chapman over the group's second choice, Paige Pat-terson, president of Criswell College

Sanders would not say specifically that Patterson was the committee's second choice. But he said recent talk about the committee's work - which placed Chapman and Patterson at the top of the committee's list - was fairly accurate speculation."

position in the past, he did not return repeated phone calls from Associated Baptist Press in early January.
For months Chapman downplayed
the persistent rumor that he was the

Chapman serves on the Executive

Committee by virtue of his role as

convention president, an annual

Although Chapman has talked can-didly about the Executive Committee

elected position.

leading candidate for the position, which would take him out of the pastorate for the first time in his ministry. However, he told ABP last September that he is "open to God's leadership" about the post and that he considers administrative skills — so critical to the job — to be among his spiritual gifts.

Chapman has been pastor of the

Wichita Falls congregation since 1979.

He has been under some pressure to resign for several years, according to sources in the church. Conflict in the church caused some members to leave to form a new congregation

Chapman has been a leader in the 12-year effort of SBC fundamentalconservatives to turn the denomination in a more conservative direction In 1990 he became the sixth fundamental-conservative candidate to be elevated to the SBC presidency.

Like Patterson, who was the chief architect of the fundamental-conservatives' surge to power, Chap-man has been mentioned as a leading candidate for almost every key denominational post in recent years.

Both Chapman and Patterson reportedly were finalists in the search for the Sunday School Board presiden-The search group is expected to cy, which eventually went to Jimmy

former SBC president.
Sanders said it is no secret Chapman and Patterson were considered in the Executive Committee's search as well. "All those on the Sunday School Board list were on our initial list," he confirmed.

Sanders would not say specifically that Patterson was the committee's second choice. But he said the recent talk about the committee's work which placed Chapman and Patterson at the top of the committee's list —
was "fairly accurate speculation."
Although many insiders have con-

sidered Patterson too controversial for such a post, Sanders said the Ex-ecutive Committee's search group did not shy away from any candidates on the basis of "their previous relation-ships in the denomination."

Since gaining control of the SBC's denominational structure in 1979, fundamental-conservatives have elected chief executives to at least five SBC agencies. However, replacing Bennett with a hand-picked successor at the Executive Committee would give fundamental-conservatives virtually unquestioned control of the SBC, including the denomination's purse strings.

If elected, Chapman would be the fifth person to hold the Executive

Committee post.
A native of Kosciusko, Miss., Chapman holds a bachelor's degree from Mississippi College in Clinton, a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and a doctor of ministry degree from Southwestern. He previously held pastorates in Albuquerque, N.M., and Rogers, Texas.

Warner is editor of Associated Bap-

# Record attendance marks Youth Evangelism Conference

By Guy Henderson

More than 3,300 young people packed the Mississippi College Coliseum for two days of conference, Dec. 30-31. James Fancher of the Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Cindy Townsend, First, Jackson's youth director; and Van Quick of MC welcomed the group. The theme, "The Heart of the Matter," guided the program personnel.

Al Denson of Irving, Texas sang and led singing activities, and Paul and Nicole Johnson were the drama and music leaders. Kathy Gautier of Jackson presented special music at several of the sessions.

Dave Busby, evangelist from Edina, Minn., challenged the youths to "bring your thirst to Jesus. We thirst for a strong love that will inspire," said Busby. "Thirst will always stop Jesus in his tracks and he seeks to satisfy the thirst. Jesus gravitates toward needy people. Some try so hard to be happy, to be successful, fulfilling, but you must thirst and then 'Drink of Me.' Water is the only thing to satisfy a real thirst and Jesus is the water of life.'

Two "Heart Sessions" were held. Youth leader Mike Curry of Conway, Ark. led a Bible study on standing up for Jesus. "Stephen took his stand for Jesus, and then Jesus, at the right hand of the Father, stood for Step

Paul and Nicole Johnson of Murfreesboro, Tenn. led a second "Heart Session" on relationships and practical problems of today. They spoke of relationships with parents and peers, drugs, and the right relationship with



Dan Scales of Baldwin said, "Great ntertainment - so much fun and the singing and preaching is a great help."



Matt Lowe, Winona, said, "It's definite ly worth your time . . . one of the most exciting conferences I've been to."

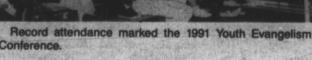


"It was great. You really get fired up," declared Carol Smith of Columbia, left. Rebekah Lay, center, said, "I love it. You meet new people and I really feel the spirit of the Lord in the conference." Stephanie Williamson, right, said, "I enjoy it — the fun, the excitement — but you don't get much sleep" to nonzerue em repnu



Conference.

commercial wings for minio.





Julie Huff, left, and Chris Hillman, right, of Crossgates Church, Brandon, emphasized the straightforward messages and the ease of making new friends. "It has a high degree of spirituality," said Chris.

For the church, change will mean a new pastor, only the fifth since 1923, following Webb Brame (28 years), W. C. Fields, Harold Shirley, and Yates.

For Yates, change will mean that for the first time in 39 years the church calendar will not dictate what he does. His only other pastorates were in Brownsville, Tenn. and Paragould,

Yates, a leader in denominational affairs, is a member of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee. A former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, he has held numerous positions on its Convention Board. He has also serv-ed as trustee of the Mississippi Bap-tist Medical Center and of Mississip-

pi College, and is at present a trustee of William Carey College. First Church, Yazoo City, called Yates in 1961, without hearing a trial sermon. He preached his first sermon there as pastor on Aug. 10 of that year on Acts 1:8, "A Challenging Program." Kentucky native, he is a graduate of Union University and Southern

The Pastor Search Committee had told him they had heard many, many other preachers and traveled ever so many thousand miles before they chose him. When Yates relayed this information to his mother-in-law, she

said, "My goodness, they were so tired they would have accepted anything." To him, the most satisfying thing about being a minister, he said, has been this congregation to whom he has ministered for 30 years. "I wish every pastor could have one church like the First Baptist Church of Yazoo City during his ministry. This church is unique in many ways. The people is unique in many ways. The people are so cooperative and supportive. The church is a strong supporter of missions. It gives 29% of its budget to the Cooperative Program. And it is James Yates

the field." This church was the first in the SBC to provide a house for furloughing missionaries.

Also, he added, this church has a strong lay leadership. "Owen Cooper was not the only outstanding layman in the church, but he was the most visible. He could give constructive criticism in a way that I could accept it. I caught his mission spirit by going with him to various countries."
The pastor's office, part of a new office complex built about four years ago, was furnished as a memorial to

Cooper.

If there has been anything disappointing in the ministry, Yates said, it would be that many people have unreasonable expectations of their pastor. Then if the pastor fails to meet them, problems arise. "A pastor has his limits." However, no conflicts have arisen in his years in Yazoo City. "Or if so, we worked them out."

His advice to young ministers is "Just love your people. They will forgive a lot of things if they feel you care about them. Our church is warm and loving and I hope somewhat reflective of what I have tried to teach in my minister."

in my ministry."

During college days, Yates was a minister of music in several churches.



His family is a musical one. His wife, Joy, who is a former president of Ministers' Wives, SBC, teaches piano to 50 pupils. "She is my greatest asset," said Yates. "She is so involved in the church life, generously giv-ing of herself and her gifts." His son, John, is a music evangelist. His son, Jim, is minister of youth and ac-tivities at First Church, Kosciusko. His daughter, Carol Joy Sparkman (who has so far provided the only grandchild in the family), is pianist at Parkway Church, Jackson and teaches at Mississippi College. The youngest son, Jeff, is assistant band director at Cultont Wish Sah director at Gulfport High School.

"My children's involvement in church today is largely due to this church," Yates said. "They were excellent role models. Their allowing the children to be themselves and not PKs meant so much."

Also Yates is known as a community leader, according to his secretary, Linda Jenkins, who has been on the staff of this church even longer than he. "I think pastors ought to be involved in community offices" he said " ed in community affairs," he said. "I joined Rotary so I could get to know the other men of the city who were not in my church. I have seen other pastors come and go. I made myself available to other denominations when needed. Consequently, I got to be 'the community pastor' and I en-joyed that." He has been Rotary president.

In retirement, the Yateses will continue to live in Yazoo City. He plans to continue preaching and interim pastorates as opportunities arise, and also to lead conferences and Bible studies. Travel is another item he will continue to pursue. This year, June 25-July 7, he will lead a tour to Ireland, Scotland, and England. (Once, while in Russia, he preached at First Baptist Church, Moscow.) His hobbies other than travel include golf, fishing, and growing a vegetable

"I am retiring from the pastorate," he said, "but not from the ministry."

Thursday, January 9, 1992

**BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5** 



Russian students Alexei Aksionov and Andrej Roudenko.

# Exchange students answer questions on culture

By Guy Henderson

Alexei Aksionov of Moscow and Andrej Roudenko of Ukraine and Moscow are exchange students at the University of Mississippi. They came to the United States in September and will remain through May 1992.

Gary Johnson and family (Gary is pastor at Beatline Church near Newton) invited the students to spend Christmas vacation with them.

Both young men were impressed with the heat back in September. "In Russia," said Alexei, "it is hot on the inside and cold on the outside. Here it is opposite; hot outside and cold in-

The Russian culture is vastly different from ours, according to Andrej: "The people here are unique and so friendly. It still shocks me when

everyone says, 'Good morning.' Of course, it is a pleasant shock."

Apparently the worst negative impression has been the waste of so much food. "At school, big trays, full, and they hardly touch it. I think may be you eat so much in your country," said Alexei.

In Oxford, they have attended the North Oxford Church, and the Methodist church. Both young men are Christians, though Alexei was baptized only six months ago.

Andrej spoke of the Russian Orthodox church and other churches being more of a cultural place. "Not like here, not very friendly and they use the Slavic language. They have a 1,000-year-old heritage and some are very pious. In the old days, it was very difficult to be a believer. It could mean no job, and very hard to get into a school. Now many things have chang-

The Russians expressed their pleasure and appreciation concerning the Seamen's Center in Pascagoula and Gulfport which has ministered to Russian sailors and sent Bibles back to Russia. "Bibles were very hard to get before and were very expensive." said Alexei.

Worship services are different. Both students like the more informal service here, which is not "so long as there in Russia" and the straightforward manner of preaching. "The pastor is very important in making the people know about the Christian message and in making a stranger feel so welcome" was the opinion of both men.

Most Americans would be impress-ed by the dedication of the two young men. They speak several languages, and are very open and friendly.

# Furman suit may be settled out-of-court

By Don Kirkland

COLUMBIA, S.C. (ABP) - A sevenmember committee of South Carolina
Baptists has been appointed to pursue
a legal judgment against Furman
University, but officials held out some
hope for an out-of-court settlement.
Furman, which is affiliated with the
South Carolina Baptist Convention,
acted in 1990 to make its board of
trustees self-perpetuating angering

trustees self-perpetuating, angering many South Carolina Baptists. The state convention voted in November to pursue a declaratory judgment against the school.

president of the state convention who appointed the committee, said each committee member has agreed to "do everything possible" to avert a court battle.

Accompanied by new convention resident Eddie Greene of Anderson, Horton, a layman from Simpsonville, announced the committee names at a press conference Dec. 17 at the Bap-tist Building in Columbia.

"Each one (of the committee members) has told me he is not anti-

But Gregory Horton, the outgoing Furman and has no axe to grind with anyone in this matter," Horton said.

However, the committee's makeup did not please Furman University president John E. Johns, who in a prepared statement declared his disappointment "that the past president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention would appoint a commit-tee that is composed primarily of fun-damentalists who are openly hostile to Furman."

Kirkland is associate editor, South Carolina Baptist Courier.

## Mississippi Baptist **Evangelism Conference**

January 27-28

Temple Church, Hattiesburg

Monday afternoon — 1:30 p.m. Richard Jackson Junior Hill Perry Sanders Monday evening — 6:45 p.m. Richard Jackson **Ondie Brum** J. Garland McKee Tuesday morning — 9:00 a.m. Perry Sanders Ondie Brum **James Lightfoot** Tuesday afternoon — 1:30 p.m. **Kenneth Carter Ondie Brum** Junior Hill

Tuesday evening — 6:45 p.m.

**Perry Sanders** 

**James Lightfoot** 

Junior Hill Troy Drollinger will enhance each session with dramatic portrayals of Christ and James. The music will be under the direction of John McKay.

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		Alt. No
Motel.	Tel.	vation
Best Western	1951	
Northgate	268-8816	
Budget	544-3475	
Cabot Lodge	264-1881	800-225-942
Carriage Inn	544-5100	
Day's Inn	544-6300	
Econo Lodge	264-0010	
Hampton Inn	264-8080	
Holiday Inn	268-2850	800-Holiday
Motel 6	544-6096	
Quality Inn	544-4530	
Peddlers Inn	582-7101	800-235-8932
Ramada	268-2170	800-872-9931
Red Carpet	582-1211	
Howard Johnson	268-2251	800-327-4903

# California bivocationals start a trend

By Sarah Zimmerman

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP) - If trends start in California and move east, soon Southern Baptists across the country will start churches with bivocational pastors.

Starting churches with people who work full time at another job is already standard procedure in Riverside, Calif., where Gene Wilson is director of missions for Calvary Arrowhead Baptist Association.

"We started 34 churches to reach one million people," Wilson laments. Faced with the mushrooming

population, Wilson says, "Addition (of churches) is not enough. We must

Knowing money is not available to fund all of the church starters needed, Wilson sought bivocational leaders for new churches. The association started 28 churches in the 30 months Wilson has been in southern California. All but one of the new churches have started with bivocational

Southern Baptists tend to view bivocationals as less effective than full-time pastors, Wilson says, but adds churches started with bivocational leaders in his association have grown as fast if not faster than churches started with full-time

The most difficult part of the bivocational church starting process, Wilson says, is finding leaders. Wilson's dream is to start churches with bivocational teams, including someone to serve as pastor, another person to be the worship leader, and perhaps another person to develop the church's religious education strategy.

Zimmerman writes for HMB.

#### Mongolia:

# "Wild" rock gospel wins over "Genghis Khan's children"

A series of concerts by a controver-sial "shock and roll" missionary band has led to an amazing increase in the size of Mongolia's tiny Christian

Some 600 Mongolians made decisions for Christ after performances by the group No Longer Music, whose dramatic evangelistic show features loud rock and bizarre special effects.

The improbable response was far bigger than had been expected in an atheistic country of two million - one of the world's least-evangelized which has around only 100 known Christians.

Band leader and singer David Pierce admitted when he returned last month that he had been unsure how the group would be received when they arrived in the formerly Buddhist Mongolian People's Republic, at the end of a four-week tour in the USSR.

"I wondered whether there was any cultural bridge, really, how appropriate what we were doing would be for them," he said. "They are a fierce people, and don't just open their arms to you because you are from the West, unlike in the Soviet Union."

Yet a total of 623 Mongolians and a further 700 Russians stayed to pray to become Christians after the gospel message at the end of the seven concerts in Ulan Bator, the capital, and

At the close of each concert Pierce preached the gospel and then invited those who wanted to respond to wait

behind and pray with him.

The pastor of one of the country's only two churches has now begun a special Russian-language service to meet the needs of the new converts, and is also coordinating follow-up of those who responded.

A longterm missionary to Mongolia, who translated the Bible into the

language, he told Pierce that he believed the tour had been so successful because the Mongolian young . . . people had been able to identify with NLM's radical style.
"The sons and daughters of Genghis

Khan are appealed to by loud noise, strength, and wildness more than anything else," he said.

Fast rock music and gospel lyrics sung in English but translated into Mongolian and screened overhead featured in the concerts, together with a re-enactment of the crucifixion and electronic effects.

A five-strong Youth With A Mission group based in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, NLM also played 17 concerts in the USSR, during which time they saw a further 400 people pray to receive Christ.

Plans are now being made for a major follow-up tour to more than a dozen Mongolian towns and cities, next year.



Julia Quinn Day and migniob ad a

## Home Board helps start crisis pregnancy centers

ATLANTA (BP) - Young women son's Focus on the Family, Booth said. come to crisis pregnancy centers to find an answer to a question: Am I pregnant?

Before they leave, they have the answer and have received counseling. "Crisis pregnancy center" is a "generic" name used for such services provided in communities throughout the country, according to Sylvia Booth, coordinator for Alternatives to Abortion Ministries at the Home Mission Board.

All such centers are not alike. But the Home Mission Board has developed a plan for establishing crisis pregnancy centers that provide a Christian witness as well as the standard service.

"Crisis pregnancy centers usually are located in a neutral setting outside of the church building," Booth said in a telephone interview.

"They offer free pregnancy tests and confidentiality."

Young women come primarily for

the pregnancy test, she said.

The HMB program offers the woman a choice of counseling presentations while she waits for the test results. Usually she will view a 26-minute video called "Your Crisis Pregnancy," produced by James Dob-

Whatever her choice of presenta-

tion, the woman will be told about the development of the "pre-born," procedures used in abortions and about emotional problems associated with having an abortion.

If the test is positive, 'some women, just fall apart," Booth said.

"Others just sit there. We try to communicate with her that whatever her need is we can help her through that."

About 60% of women tested are not pregnant, she said. But counselors still have the "opportunity to talk to them about lifestyle."

Booth said the counseling "provides a wonderful opportunity to present the

a wonderful opportunity to present the gospel."

"We have done training for 30 crisis pregnancy centers in the past two years," she said. "Last year they reported over 600 salvation extra periences."

"Road doing segesses ressages which con-

The average annual cost is a minimum of \$25,000-\$30,000, Booth said. It can get as high as \$60,000-\$100,000.

The toll-free phone number for HMB Alternatives to Abortion Ministries is (800) 962-0851.

#### "Operation 88" honors pianist at Clarksdale

Sunday, Nov. 24, was designated as Julia Quinn Appreciation Day by the members of Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale. This day was in recognition of Mrs. Quinn's 20 plus years of service to the church as pianist.

The day was given a code name of "Operation 88" in order to keep it a secret. The name, Operation 88 refers to the 88 keys on the piano keyboard.

During the morning service, Mrs. Quinn was presented with 20 red roses, one for each year of service. She was also given one yellow rose, signifying the years of service still to come. A certificate of appreciation from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, signed by L. Graham Smith, state music director, was presented to Mrs. Quinn, as well as a framed letter of recognition from Dot-Pray, state keyboard specialist, Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Mrs. Quinn was praised by her pastor, Carl White; Betty Lou Stribling, her long-time friend; and Hugh Plunkett, her choir director. The Sanctuary Choir and the Lamplighter Choir hosted a luncheon in her honor. Marie Rollins, church organist and close friend of Mrs. Quinn's, presided over a "This is Your Life" program in which many of Mrs. Quinn's family members were brought out to surprise her. Lucius Marion, former pastor of Clarksdale Church, and Mrs. Paula Wilson Graham, former Girls' State Governor from Clarksdale, were also featured guests.

#### 16,000 Argentines make decisions

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — More than 16,000 spiritual decisions were recorded during a Billy Graham evangelistic campaign in Buenos Aires in November. More than half of those decisions were made by people age 25 and under, according to Southern Baptist missionaries there. In Buenos Aires 283,500 people attended the crusade, which was broadcast via satellite to 20 other Latin American countries.

Bruce Muskrat, Southern Baptist music missionary in Argentina, conducted the crusade orchestra. Missionary Mary Swanner helped interpret messages for the hearing-impaired during live broadcasts of the services in Montevideo, Uruguay. Other Southern Baptist missionaries helped organize prayer efforts for the crusade. Video recordings of services are still being aired in the region.

## Anita Bryant begins comeback

BERRYVILLE, Ark. (ABP) -Eleven years after a painful divorce and the collapse of her entertainment career, Anita Bryant is coming back into the public spotlight with a new

"A New Day," Bryant's first book in more than a decade, is scheduled for release in the spring of 1992 by Broad-man Press. The book is said to focus on God's redemptive work in Bryant's

Bryant's criticism of homosexuals cost her an advertising contract with the Florida Citrus Commission, and her subsequent divorce alienated her from many in the Christian community.

Bryant's career began in 1959, when she was named second runner-up in the Miss America Pageant. She recorded 30 albums and wrote 10 books. She had a \$100,000-a-year advertising contract with the Florida Citrus Commission and three times was voted Good Housekeeping's Most Admired Woman

She did 14 command performances at the White House, sang at the funeral of President Lyndon Johnson

and traveled on seven consecutive Bob Hope Christmas tours. Married for 20 years to a one-time

teen idol Bob Green, the mother of four children and a Sunday School teacher in a Southern Baptist church, it seemed the former beauty queen was living in a dream world. However, that dream world turned into a nightmare when Bryant went through a bitter and public divorce in 1980.

Her show now includes gospel renditions of "Amazing Grace" and "Jesus Loves Me" and Bryant's own testimony about God's love.

"God loves you," she tells the au-dience. "If it weren't for his uncondi-tional love, I wouldn't be here."

She prays with members of the audience who come to her with problems after the show, and she quotes Scrip-

In her performances, as in her up-coming book, Bryant hopes to help people "who have blown it for whatever reason," she said. "The hardest thing for me was to forgive myself. But when you give

everything to God, it is a new day."

# English language churches in Europe speak German, Hungarian, Iranian, and . . .

HOENSBROEK, THE NETHER-LANDS - The European Baptist Convention began in the 1960s with a goal ministering primarily to the large American population resident in Europe. As the American military withdraws from Europe, the international element in EBC churches, whose combined membership is around 6,000, is becoming more evident. Consider:

 EBC's newest member church, the International Baptist Church of Wuppertal, has not one American member, and the pastor, Hans-Dieter Fraund, is a German who founded the church in June, 1989. Fraund's congregation is already supporting two missions, in Frankfurt and in Buchel, each with a part time pastor. Forty people from six countries worship regularly in Buchel, but only one is American. Services, in the "mother church" are in English, but are translated into German, and then in-

· The membership of the International Baptist-Church of Stuttgart/ Vaihingen comprises a growing number of non-Americans. The pastor, Larry Jones, is currently looking for a German-speaking assistant who can help minister to the growing German congregation. Jones, who is fluent in German, holds regular German services, in addition to providing a regular ministry to Hungarians through translation. His membership of 220 includes people from at least 20

This pattern of international ministry is extending rapidly to other EBC churches. And well it must, according to EBC General Secretary EBC churches to develop international ministries.

"The draw-down of U.S. military forces in Europe has begun to take its toll on some of our churches," he reported to the EBC annual convention, held in Hoensbroek Oct. 23-24, 1991. However, Merritt added, "the doors for planting new international Baptist churches are very open."

Merritt said the EBC began the year 1991 with 58 churches and missions, then lost two due to U.S. military withdrawal. "There are now 63," he reported with satisfaction.

The idea of providing a ministry for internationals is also growing among national Baptist churches in Europe, and EBC is encouraging cooperative.

John Merritt. For the past several relationships wherever possible. Thus, years, Merritt has been encouraging the Avenue du Main Baptist Church in Paris sponsors five language congregations, all of which meet at dif-ferent times in the same building. One of the five is an EBC church. Likewise. the Kristuskirkens Baptist Congregation in Copenhagen, Denmark, where Ove Jensen is pastor, sponsors an English language EBC congregation in addition to ministries in Spanish, Serbo-Croatian, and Romanian.

> In order to implement an ambitious, plan to plant English language churches in 21 major European cities, the EBC has now employed the services of a full time couple to encourage and oversee this work. The convention named Ray and Helen Reynolds, who have served EBC churches for many years, as Church Plan-

"Europe is a mosaic of people from all over the world, many of whom speak English," explained Ray Reynolds. "It is an open door for evangelism and church planting." Reynolds said that in some cases the national Baptist unions are asking EBC to organize English language ministries to internationals.

The Reynolds' first task is to survey some of the targeted cities. "Already there are encouraging results," said Reynolds, "We have been asked to go to Budapest, Hungary . . . There are encouraging developments in Bremen and Celle, Germany; Oslo, Norway; Sofia, Bulgaria; Nancy, France; London England; and Barcelona, Spain. don, England; and Barcelona, Spain. God is at work (among internationals in Europe)." EBPS

# I BESE OPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

January 9, 1992

HOUSETOPS is a supplement to the Baptist Record and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

#### "I WANT TO START OVER!"

Indy Whitten, Prayer Coordinator, MBCB

Rusty seemed hot as he bit his tongue and went back to his drawing. The teacher had told the class to draw a picture of what they would like to be doing in the new year.

Pencils and crayons were out of their boxes, in a muddled heap, ready for use.

Suddenly Rusty crumpled up his paper and threw it across the room into the wastebasket.

"Gimme another sheet!" he exclaimed. "I can't fix this bad drawing. I want to start over!"

Common to all people is the need to "start over". God in His loving mercy, has broken time into smaller segments. A new year is an especially good time to take stock and "start over." Philippians 3: 14 says,"..forgetting everything which is past and stretching forward to what lies in front of me, with my eyes fixed on the goal, I push on to secure the prize of God's heavenward call in Christ Jesus." (Weymouth)

In many prayer retreats a sheet entitled "Prayer Power: A Self Analysis" helps participants to evaluate their own personal needs. One of the most frequent responses is, "I need to DISCIPLINE myself to pray."

My husband has a vivid memory of his Bible professor at Miss. College, Dr. M.O. Patterson. Especially does he remember one of his chapel messages which consisted of three words: TAKE TIME TO PRAY—with emphasis on each word.

TAKE time. Discipline enters the picture at this point. Prayer time must be planned for and set aside. The person who waits for the ideal moment of leisure when there is nothing else that needs to be done or when rested and alert will do little praying.

..Take TIME. Real prayer takes time. It's not a matter of tipping the hat to God on the run or saying, "Lord, you know what I need. Please look after it." Prayer is communion/praise, thanksgiving, petition and intercession. An early morning hour/half hour/15 minutes seems best for many people, but each individual Christian must discipline and use time as works best.

Take time to PRAY. Prayer take us into the presence of the Living God of the universe, our loving Heavenly Father. Kingdom praying causes us to say, "Hallowed be your-Name. Your Kingdom come. Your will be done... in my life and in all the earth."

Nineteen-ninety-two is a good year to "start over" and learn more as the Lord teaches us to pray.

## **Church Business Administrators Conference**

January 23, 1992

Broadmoor Baptist Church, 787 E. Northside Drive, Jackson Jointly sponsored by CAPM and Hinds/Madison Baptist Association

This conference will offer three tracks to choose from:

Track I - for church business administrators to include: "Tax Law," by James Dossett, partner in Dossett, Goode, Barnes, and Bacon law firm of Jackson; "Conducting Effective Meetings," by Jehu Brabham, business administrator, Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson; "Security - Office, Premise, Personal," by Linda Woolley, administrative officer in the Crime Prevention Unit of Jackson Police Department, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and concluding at 4:00 p.m.

Track II - for food service and maintenance management, led by Ron Chandler, minister of administration, Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown, Tennessee.

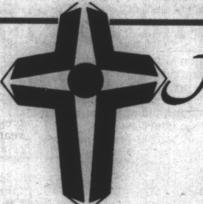
Track III - for commercial driver's license training, instructed by Bob Beasley, instructor for Southern Drivers' Academy, Jackson, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and concluding at 1:00 p.m.

There is no cost for the conference except for those attending the driver's instruction. The cost for the

instruction is \$10.00. The check should be made payable to Hinds-Madison Association and mailed to James Webster, 6530 Dogwood View Parkway, Jackson 39213. Lunch will not be served at the church. Everyone will be on his own. Registration is necessary and should be sent to Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Dept., P 0 Box 530, Jackson 39205.

PAGE BAPTIST RECESSE

For more information call Julius Thompson, 968-3800, extension 3908, or James Webster, 372-8676.



# Masterlife Alumni Banquet

Monday, January 27

5:00 P.M. (Between Evangelism Conference Sessions)

## TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH, HATTIESBURG

- Delicious Meal
- Christian Fellowship
- Inspirational Update

by

Roy Edgemon, Director
Discipleship Training Department, Nashville Tennessee

**TICKETS: \$7.25** 

SEND TICKET FEE TO: Discipleship Training Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Make checks payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

## ZIMBABWE OPEN TO THE GOSPEL

by Rex Yancey

hen I first heard of the opportunity to form a partnership between Mississippi Baptists and Zimbabwean Baptists, I never dreamed that I would be among the first group of volunteers to preach there. However, Dr. Causey asked me to consider the opportunity. I presented this opportunity to my deacons on a very short notice. They discussed the partnership and encouraged me to make the trip. Several members of the church financed the trip for me. I shall always be grateful for a supportive church.

Africa was not exactly like I expected it to be. I expected jungle. What I saw was not much different from some locations in Mississippi. The cities are modern. The rural areas would remind one of the south in the 1940's and 50's.

I rejoiced in the opportunity to meet some of our Southern Baptist missionaries in Paris, Johannesburg, and Zimbabwe. They are dedicated to their calling. I was pleased that they live in good houses and have good transportation. The Cooperative Program works for us and for our missionaries.

Clyde Dotson was the first Southern Baptist missionary in Mutare, Zimbabwe. I was privileged to preach in the church he started in 1955. I was also privileged to worked with the same pastor he worked with in 1955, Mufundis Sithole. I enjoyed being a part of that history.

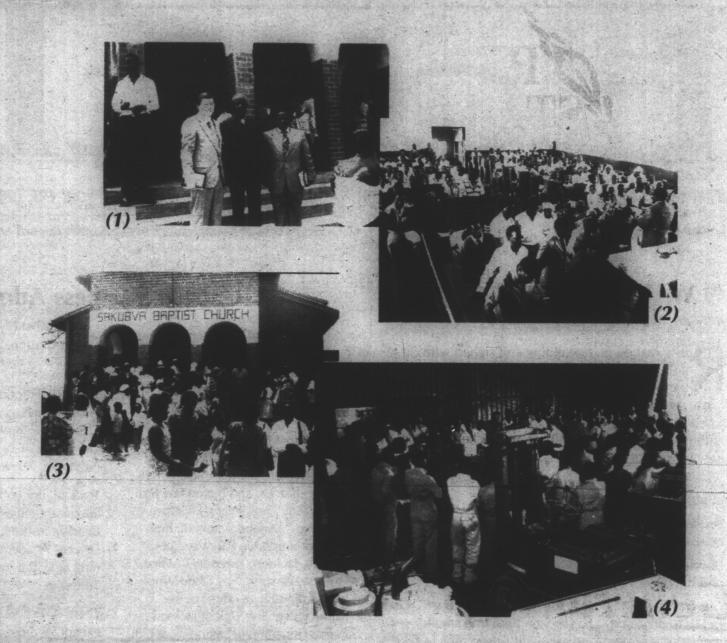
I found the Zimbabweans to be open to the gospel. We had decisions at every service. The people are open and friendly and appreciated everything we tried to do to help them. I preached at a factory every morning at seven o'clock. The workers were very responsive.

Maybe God is calling some of you who are reading my testimony to be a part of this partnership. Don't be afraid to go. If He leads you to go, He will provide the means for you to go. The quality of the Christian life is raised significantly when one chooses to live by faith.

Only heaven will reveal the good that will come from this partnership. Some of us can go as volunteers. Some of us can give so volunteers can go. All of us can pray for the success of this partnership. God bless you as you find your place in the Mississippi/Zimbabwee partnership.

(1) Rex Yancey, left; Charter deacon, center, Mufundis Sithole, right. (2) God's Spirit moved at invitation time at Sakubva Baptist Church. Rex Yancey yeilded the invitation to Mufundis Sithole (pastor). (3) Clyde Datson, our first S.B.C. missionary stared the Sakubva Baptist Church in 1955.

(4) Yancey preaching at Hughes Engineering at 7 a.m. each morning.



# MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST STUDENT UNION RETREAT

CAMP GARAYWA
CLINTON, MISSISSIPPI
JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 1,
1992

"BEING STRONG IN THE LORD"

Matthew 24:42-44

Promoted by the DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT WORK Mississippi Baptist Convention Board



The fourth Sunday in March has been designated as a national and state Start-a-Church Commitment Sunday, In Mississippi every church is challenged to make a commitment to reach people and start a church during the next associational year. Specific commitments are to:

- 1. Start a church
- 2. Join with an association or another congregation in church starting efforts.
- 3. Covenant to pray individually and corporately for a specific new congregation.

Start-a-Church Commitment Sunday, March 23, 1992, is a day for churches to get involved in this convention-wide emphasis that will be implemented through mission revivals, associational and/or church PROBES, starting Southern Baptist churches in Black communities, church-starting teams, summer seminary teams, church planter apprentices and bivocational church starters. Special attention should be given to socioeconomic and language -culture groups needing new churches especially designed for them.

In most every town and city there are pockets of people that need to have Bible fellowships, Sunday schools, preaching points, and other opportunities to hear and understand the gospel message designed especially for them.

Following the day of commitment, the local director of missions and the Cooperative Missions Department of the Convention Board will be grateful if you notify us of your decision so we will be in a position to assist you in following through with your commitment.

## **Youth Dates - 1992**

Please place these important dates on your calendar:

- Youth Missions Convention at Mississippi College
   April 10-11, 1992
- 2. Youth Conferences at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly June 1-5, 1992

June 5-9, 1992

June 9-13, 1992

June 15-19, 1992

June 19-23, 1992

3. Youth Music Conference at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

July 11-15, 1992

- Super Summer at William Carey College July 20-24, 1992
- Youth Night at Mississippi Coliseum, Jackson July 24, 1992
- Youth Ministers Workshop at Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville - October 26-28, 1992
- Youth Evangelism Conference at Mississippi College - December 28-29, 1992

# Generally Speaking.

BOB MORRISON will be choral clinician and adjudicator for the STATE YOUTH CHORAL FESTI-VAL, Jan. 31-Feb. 1, at Broadmoor Church, Jackson.

Morrison is minister of music at First Church, Pensacola, Fla.

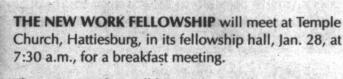
The festival is coordinated by
Susan Clark, contract consultant for the Mississippi
Baptist Convention Board's Church Music Department.

The festival begins at 7 p.m., Jan. 31 after registration at 6:30 p.m. It concludes at 12:30 the next day.

Participants may sing for judging—where they can receive written comments—rating is optional. Or observer groups may attend the festival and not sing. However, these groups are encouraged to register and sing in the mass choir.

For details on how to prepare for this festival, contact the Church Music Department, phone 968-3800, in Jackson.

Registration must be made to the Church Music Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, by Jan. 17. The fee is \$1 per person.



The guest speaker will be Rex Braswell, a long-time resident of Hattiesburg and a deacon at Thirty-Eighth Ave. Church there. He is a lay speaker and has had the opportunity to speak in many churches on personal witnessing and soul-winning methods.

For more information, contact the Cooperative Missions Department, Ray Grissett, director, at 968-3800.



serves at associate vice president, Program Development at Coordination for the Evangelism Section of the Home Mission Board, will be the speaker for the MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHAPLAINS ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON, JAN. 28.

The luncheon will take place at noon at William Carey Col-

lege's Wilks Dining Hall on the Hattiesburg campus.

Reservations can be made through the Cooperative Missions Department, MBCB, 968-3800.



These are the OFFICERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCE. From left, they are secretary-treasurer, Ray Burke, minister of music at First Church, Amory; president, Jim Hess, minister of music at First Church, Vicksburg; vice president, Clyde Carraway, minister of music at First Church, Lucedale; and president-elect, Lewis Oswalt, minister of music at Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, and music faculty at Mississippi College.

The conference will meet March 26-27 at Parkway Church, Jackson. Wes Forbis, director of the Church Music Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, will be guest speaker. Susan Messer, on the music faculty at New Orleans Seminary, will also be leading sessions at the conference.

Concerts will be given by the Mississippi Singing Churchmen and by the Carey College Chorale. The program begins at 1 p.m. on March 26, and concludes the next day at 12:30 p.m.

Long Range Seminar

CHARL MERCHIN PACK

#### CHURCH ADMINISTRATION-PASTORAL MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board "Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"

# FEBRUARY 17-19, 1992 BAPTIST BUILDING, JACKSON

LEADER: Truman Brown, senior consultant in the Pastoral Leadership Section of the Church Administration Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board

AUDIENCE: Pastors, church staff, long-range planning committees, and church council leaders

**PURPOSE:** To provide participants with information and resources to lead the church to establish measurable goals for three to seven years, select actions and events that get results, and make the best of the church's resources.

FINANCES: \$45.00 (includes the resource <u>Planning for the Next Five Years in a Southern Baptist Church</u> and other seminar expenses)



Truman Brown

Decained in circle practice I want

**REGISTRATION:** Complete the form and mail with a check (made payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board) for each person planning to attend to Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, P 0 Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 prior to February 7, 1992.

For further information, contact: Julius Thompson, (601)968-3800, extension 3908.

#### --- Registration Form: ---

#### LONG RANGE PLANNING SEMINAR

Feb	ruary 17-19, 1992	The mo
Name of Church	Association	
Church Address	City	Zip
Church Phone No		
Name	Church Position	
Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$(\$45.00 per person)	to cover the cost of	persons to attend.

## REACHING PEOPLE GROWTH CONFERENCE

First Baptist Church Greenville February 24-25, 1992

> February 24, 1992 DAYTIME

Pastors, Church Staff, Sunday School Leaders 9:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

#### EVENING

Sunday School Workers, General Officers, Pastors, Church Staff 7:00 P.M. - 9:15 P.M. 17 conferences open to all workers

February 25, 1992
8:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Growth Spiral Conferences
Basic Growth Spiral
- Ken Marler
Advanced Growth Spiral
- Andy Anderson

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Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

# Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

## Resolved: to watch my step

In this new year of 1992, I am resolv-

ed to watch my step.
One December day I didn't. W. D.
and I had visited Keith and Penny Stamps, missionaries to Guatemala who on furlough are living in Hat-tiesburg. Now I've resolved to stop drinking so many Coca-Colas, but that day I had not made the resolution yet. Suddenly my mouth felt parched, so we stopped at one of those combination gas and grocery stores and I went inside to buy a cola.

Inside the door I paused. Workers were installing new tile. A wide strip of floor from door to cash register was bare, except for old and gummy glue. The strip was framed with loops of yellow tape, like police place around a yard where there has been an accident or a murder. "Walk with cau-tion," said a sign in bold letters. I waited, still hesitant. Should I walk on it at all? But then a man came into the store and walked across the goo. Tip-toeing carefully, I proceeded "with

Safely transported to a section of new tile, I walked to the refrigerator, extracted a bottle, and returned to the gluey section in front of the cash register. I had to stand and wait for my change. I stood and stood. And then — you guessed it. I couldn't a hand to lift me up from the min move, for I was stuck. Tight. I grasped sin, and I reached up to take it.

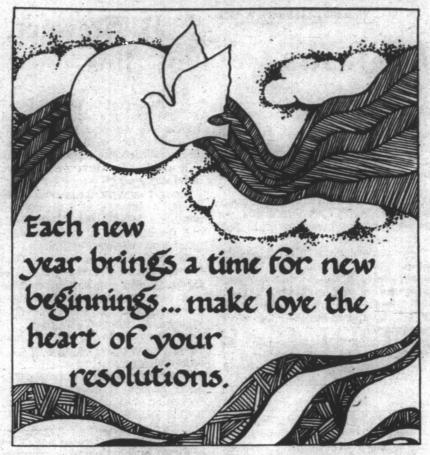
the counter, pulled one foot loose, turned slowly, pulled the other foot loose, and took one step. Only one. I was caught again. Like the fly in the spider's web, I struggled, but to no

I thought, "If I take my feet out of my shoes, I'll just pull the hide off my feet." With one enormous effort, I pulled once more. My feet remained stationary but I went forward, to the floor on my hands and knees. "Oh, my goodness! Now I'll be stuck on allfours!" How was this all going to end?

Suddenly a man stepped up to my side. Maybe his shoes were rubber and mine were leather? I cared not, for he had come to my rescue. He reached out a hand with an offer to lift me up. I accepted the offer with alacrity. And I held onto him for dear life as he pulled me loose from the next four steps, to the door and

I am resolved to watch my step this year. Think about it: yield to that temptation, whatever it is — just stick one foot in, and you're trapped; stick both feet in and you'll find it all but

impossible to pull loose.
I can begin this new year, and every day and every year, with a clean slate only because once One reached down a hand to lift me up from the mire of



#### Albanians pack hall to see "Jesus" film

2,000 curious Albanians crowded into a former communist headquarters building Dec. 14 to see a movie about Jesus Christ, reported United Press International. Although tickets cost about \$1 - a day's wages in Albania many more people were turned away and police had to control the

TIRANA, Albania — More than crowd outside. The event was the first showing of a religious movie in postcommunist Albania, where religion was banned in 1967, according to UPI. The film "Jesus" has been seen by millions of people worldwide and has produced phenomenal evangelistic



# Letters to the editor

#### Agrees with editorial

I agree heartily with everything in the Dec. 19 editorial, "The main thing." The hope is that Baptists across Mississippi will read it and take to heart the warnings.
For 45 years I served as a Southern

Baptist pastor, after my graduation from Southern Seminary. It's heart-breaking that our convention has fallen into the hands of those in key places who will rule or ruin.

My feeling all along is that the fundamental/conservative push and pull is more political than theological.

We need more people, who are in strategic positions, to speak out. Your closing paragraph, calling for

repentance and prayer, is our greatest

God bless you!

L. Reed Polk

#### Do away with principles?

How your writers have defended liberalism in your defense of Ruschlikon! My word! Why don't we just do away with the principles we Baptist Christians uphold such as our Baptist Faith and Message; our belief in there are no errors in the Bible. I say, "Thank God" for the trustees of the FMB that deemed Ruschlikon a seedbed of liberalism and voted to defund the school. If we Christian Baptists were to allow seminaries to teach such liberal teachings, then I feel that the sound foundations of faith in the Scriptures to be unstable

My thanks and prayers to the board of trustees for their boldness and I pray also that they will continue to uphold true values.

B. C. Abraham Clarksdale

#### Reconsidered Hinson

The defunding of the Ruschlikon seminary was supposedly triggered by E. Glenn Hinson. To determine if I had missed something about his teachings, I again scanned his book The Integrity of the Church. I do not see how anyone could be any more solid in what he believes about Jesus, the way of salvation, or the need for the church to be on mission. I was again impressed with his intelligent proach to the basics of our faith.

Then it came to my mind what the trouble must be. The clue is a word in the title of his book — "integrity." This flies in the face of the demonstrated character of the Foreign Mission Board trustees who said one thing and then failed to live up to their word. They did this in spite of a legal opinion which indicated that they were breaking a contract. Obviously they have no respect for the law or the wishes of members of the various state conventions.

I Kings 22:23 refers to a lying spirit in the mouths of prophets. I believe that I may now understand the mean-

ing of this passage.
Ray A Thompson

#### Pleased with Southeastern

I am a graduate of Clarke College and the Mississippi College at Clarke program. I have found after my first semester here at Southeastern Seminary, I was prepared well by the pro-fessors at Clarke. There are two other Clarke graduates here who also feel they have been prepared well for seminary. I would recommend to anyone entering the ministry and seeking an education in theology to strongly consider Clarke College and the Mis-

sissippi College at Clarke program. Having completed my undergraduate program and having entered the master of divinity with languages pro-gram at Southeastern, I can truly say that I have made the right choices. I have found Southeastern to be everything that I thought it would be and more. The professors here believe and stand upon the Word of God. Once we are in the classroom it is like we are in the midst of revival. The Lord Jesus is lifted up and glorified in the teaching of his Word. We have heard and even seen testimony of the many miracles that have resulted from answered prayer, which was offered up in class.

Donald R. Silkwood Wake Forest, N.C.

#### Thanks for convention prayers

In this time of turmoil and name calling we, the Southern Baptist Convention, have left our priorities and become stumbling blocks to the lost and backslidden world. We have gotten so involved in who is in control of the convention that we have forgotten Who is in control of everything.

During the past state convention, time was taken to pray for the sick and needy. God answered one of those prayers; my wife Joann was mentioned and prayed for on the floor of the convention and we have truly witnessed miracles in her life because of the unity in prayer. During the convention she was hospitalized for her second surgery because of cancer and things looked bleak, but because people from all over the state and nation found time to humble themselves and pray, God listened and answered our

Joann had a great Christmas at home with her family and friends because of those prayers. I want

everyone to know that God still listens to his children and answers their prayers, if we will just realize he is God and humble ourselves and pray. God has performed a miracle in Joann's life and he will always be God,

no matter what.

The only thing that I am sure of about God's will, is that he sent Jesus Christ just for me and it is our job to tell the world about Jesus and to pray for one another just as Jesus prayed for us. I want to thank all of our Christian brothers and sisters who have found time to pray on our behalf and many of you I will not meet until we get to heaven. There is one other thing I would like for you to pray for, and that is a revival in this convention and nation. Let us quit complaining to each other about one another and start telling Jesus about our problems and learn to work together in order to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.
Once again, thank you for your

Mickey L. Walls Pulaski

### "Let's agree" hits home

I am 67 years old. I am a veteran of World War II. I am a member of New Liberty Church. I take the Baptist Record and read what interests me most each week.

I read with interest this week's "Editor's Notebook" where you state, "Let's agree" (Jan. 2, 1992). I will agree with you 100%.

The people in our nation do not agree. The people in our church do not agree. I have never heard of as much trouble as there is in the world today. Instead of getting better, it will get worse until Jesus comes back for his

I wish you the best of everything. As the Bible says, "Love one another." William C. Brand

Vardaman

## CP gifts in December

Thursday, January 9, 1992

les than '90 NASHVILLE (BP) — The SBC Cooperative Program received 5.51% less in December 1991 compared to the same month last year, according to Harold C. Bennett, executive com-

mittee president/treasurer.

The executive committee received \$10,575,202 in December which was \$617,005 less than the amount received in December 1990. For the SBC budget year, October through December, the total received was 2.46% less than the first quarter of the 1990-91 budget year: \$33,472,910 compared to \$34,315,488.

The 1991-92 monthly basic operating budget requirement for the SBC is

Designated gifts were also down, by 4.80%, for the month compared to a year ago: \$3,113,555 to \$3,270,528. For the year-to-date, designated gifts were ago: \$6,885,997 to \$6,887,196 or a .02% decrease. nearly the same compared to a year

Designated contributions include the Foreign Mission Board's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, the Home Mission Board's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions, world hunger, and other special gifts.

#### Deaf congregations start in Trinidad

ARIMA, Trinidad - The first evangelical congregations for the deaf have been started in Trinidad, reported Southern Baptist missionaries Doris and Willard Goforth. The Goforths helped begin a deaf congregation at Calvary Baptist Church in Arima. Baptist worship services for the deaf also have been started in San Fernando. In addition, during the past year 35 deaf Trinidadians have accepted Christ as Savior through Baptist deaf ministries, Goforth said.

A leader in this ministry is Yvette Aarons, who has been an International Service corps volunteer deaf worker in Trinidad since 1990. A number of other deaf Southern Baptists are scheduled to work in shortterm volunteer projects with deaf Trinidadians during 1992.

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## Think like Jesus

By Eugene H. Dobbs Phil. 2:5-8

Think like Jesus! It's difficult to comprehend the implications of such a command. What Paul is asking us to do is so very much more than the glib, syrupy "power of positive thinking" that is rampant in many circles of Christianity today. He is asking us to radically imitate the life of Jesus

What is the mind of Christ? Why did Paul feel it important that Christians have the mind of Christ? It is this: we are not likely to do as Jesus did until we think as he did. The mind of Christ is evangelism

During his ministry Jesus spoke many times of his mission and he most often related that to evangelism. "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). "... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Jesus saw this as his mission and as ours.

In giving marching orders to his church (Matt. 28:18-20) Jesus linked the tasks of evangelism and equipping. He repeatedly called men not only to life but also to a discipleship that involved denial and death of self (Luke 9:23). Those who are won to saving faith in Christ are to be equipped in order that they may become effective ministers of Christ.

The mind of Christ is ministry

Wherever Jesus went he reached out to those who were experiencing the hurts of the world. He fed the hungry, healed the sick, gave hope to the hopeless, and became friend to the friendless. His acts of ministry were not bound by race, gender, education, religion, or wealth. Where he saw need, he ministered in hindress compassion and reven These acts were an in he ministered in kindness, compassion, and power. These acts were an integral part of his purpose in coming.

In one of his final commands to his disciples, our risen Lord said, "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you" (John 20:21). To think like Jesus, to have the mind of Christ, is to be involved in evangelism, discipleship, and ministry in his name.

Dobbs is administrative assistant for ministry, MBCB.



## N.O. to dedicate Evangelism Center

NEW ORLEANS — (Left to right) Landrum P. Leavell II, president of New Orleans Seminary, stands with Charles Lowry, director of Southern Baptists' first Center for Evangelism and Church Growth, in front of the recently opened building on the campus of New Orleans Seminary. A formal dedication will take place at noon on Tuesday, Jan. 28, when the Louisiana Baptist Convention Evangelism Conference will be held on the New Orleans Seminary campus.

## **SBC** Foundation directors affirm disputed funds rule

NASHVILLE (BP) - Trustees of the Southern Baptist Foundation affirmed an earlier decision of the agency's executive committee to "ask the SBC Executive Committee for instruction" on the distribution of nearly \$400,000 in disputed funds.

Meeting in Nashville Dec. 3-4 for its

annual meeting, the 34-member board affirmed its executive committee's decision in July to seek instructions from the SBC Executive Committee as to how to distribute funds given the Foundation in 1964. The account was established in 1964 using a \$300,000

allocation from a capital needs budget approved by the SBC in Atlantic City.

The disputed account, grown to nearly \$400,000, came from the 1964 convention with a footnote that "The \$300,000 allocation to the Public Affairs Committee to be subject to conditions approved by the Executive Committee or the Southern Baptist Convention." At that time the PAC related to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The BJC requested the funds in

September by citing the purchase of land which, the BJC said, fulfilled the conditions of the 1964 investment. However, the SBC no longer helps fund the BJC and the SBC Executive Committee in September voted to sever formal ties with the Washington based church/state lobby agency.

The SBC Christian Life Commission to the "Public Affairs Committee" which has since been merged with the CLC. Trustees of the CLC have asked for the funds on deposit with the

The SBC Executive Committee indicated in September it would study the matter and a decision is expected when the committee meets in Nashville in February.

Assets for the Foundation increased 26% during fiscal year 1991-92, according to President Hollis E. Johnson III. More than \$129 million is now invested with the Foundation, Johnson said. Assets have more than doubled over the past five years.

## J. B. Stewart, 75, dies

Services were held at 3 p.m. Dec. 21, at First Church, Columbia, for J. B. Stewart, 75, who died Dec. 20, 1991 at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson. Michael Knippers of Poplar-ville and Bendon Ginn of Brookhaven

Stewart received the bachelor's and master's degrees at University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, and the bachelor of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary

He pastored churches in Pearl River, Greene, Forrest, Perry, Jeff Davis, Marion, and Walthall counties, and two churches in Washington Parish, La. He also served in school systems in Marion, Walthall, and Lawrence counties as teacher, vocational guidance counselor, and administrator.

Stewart helped to organize senior adult groups in several churches, served on state committees, and attended the Mississippi Baptist Convention for 25 consecutive years during his pastorates. He was a member of First Church, Columbia, where he served as usher and at one time on the Church Care committee.

He is survived by his wife, Martha, one daughter, two sons, and seven grandchildren.

Four get degrees

# from Southwestern

Four Mississippians received degrees from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex. during December. They are:

Philip Ray Davidson, master of divinity with biblical languages, Jackson; Charles Keith May, master of arts in religious education, Clinton; Edgar Ricks Sellers Jr., master of arts in religious education, Greenville; and Sidney William Thompson. master of arts in religious education,

#### 3,200 view 'Scenes of Christ" at Improve Church

'Scenes of Christ" were presented at Improve Church, Columbia, Dec.

Over those two nights, over 3,200 individuals made their way through the tour. The pastor, Dale Funderburg, states, "The Lord blessed us exceedingly above all we could have imagined. We registered 118 different churches being represented from 32 cities in Mississippi, seven states, and three foreign countries.

"We could not have seen so much happen if it had not been for the ef-forts of many people. We had over 150 people in the actual scenes. Much went on beforehand and behind the scenes that was never noticed, but ch it would hav possible for us to present the gospel message in the way it was."

## Missionary news

Tom and Hazel Barron, missionaries to Indonesia, are in the States (address: 4962 Barella Dr., An-tioch, Tenn. 37013). He was born in Forest, La., and grew up in Richton, Miss. She is the former Hazel Clark

# Staff changes

Mount Vernon Church in Lauder-dale County has called Frank Tribble as pastor, effective Dec. 1. Tribble was former pastor of Evergreen Church in Wayne County. He has pastored churches in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Ohio.

Montpelier Church, Montpelier, La., called Charles (Chip) Price as pastor earlier last year. Price previously

served as interim pastor at Locust Street Church, Mc-Comb. Originally from Summit. Price is a graduate of Mississippi College and is currently enrolled in the master of divinity program at New Orleans Sem-

inary. Corinth Church, Heidelberg, has called Mack Harrison as pastor, effective Dec. 8. A native of Laurel, he graduated from New Orleans Seminary in 1985. His previous place of service was Goshen Church, Hazlehurst hasanwol M yoni J

Sardis Church, Smith County, has called Steve White as pastor, effective Dec. 22. He was ordained to the gospel ministry by D'Lo Church, D'Lo, in

1990. He served as pastor of New Hope Church, Samson, Ala., while attending Florida Baptist College, Grace-ville, Fla. White considers Jackson his home, moving there from Baton

since April of 1988 as pastor of First Church, Tchula.

Blanton is a grad-

College and earn-ed the master of

uate of Missis

Rouge, La., at an early age. He lived in D'Lo from 1985 to 1990.

Ladell Blanton has been called as astor of Foxworth First Church, Marion Association, effective Dec. 15. He had served

Blanton

divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

#### Lottie Moon goals met

First Church, Sherman, has increased its giving to the Cooperative Program by ½% (.05), raising its percentage to 12%, and has surpass-ed its goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering this year.

Forest Church, Forest, set a goal of \$16,000 for its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The first Sunday the people gave \$16,400. The total has reached \$19,223. The Forest Church also maintains a residence for furloughing missionaries. Sonny Adkins is pastor.

Bethany Church in Slate Springs, Calhoun Association, exceeded its Lottie Moon Foreign Mission Offering goal of \$5,500 on Dec. 22, with a total of \$6,516 received. Bethany Church has 151 resident members with 124 enrolled in Sunday School and averaged 91 in Sunday School in the 1990-1991 church year. A total of 39% of the income went to missions last year.

Mt. Olive Church, Coila, has called Tommy Clark as pastor, effective Dec. 22. He is a native of Jackson. His previous place of service was First Church, Charleston.

Iuka Church, Tishomingo Association, has called Stacey Blake of Hiram, Ga., as minister of youth and youth music, effective Dec. 29. A native of Columbus, he received his education at Belmont College, Nashville, Tenn.



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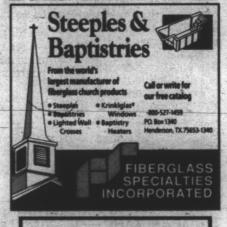


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## NOBTS graduates doctoral candidates

NEW ORLEANS — Seven students with Mississippi ties received doctoral degrees from New Orelans Seminary during commencement exercises Dec. 20. Standing, left to right, are Eric Holleyman, whose parents live in Doddsville, Miss., doctor of philosophy; Tim Bailey, instructor at William Carey College in Hattiesburg, doctor of philosophy; Don Denton Sr., Gulfport, doctor of ministry; Landrum P. Leavell II, seminary president; John Stevens, Clinton, doctor of philosophy; Wesley Pitts, Pontotoc, doctor of ministry; and Homer Ausburn Page Jr., Wigners of philosophy.

## Eleven from state gets degrees

Eleven people with Mississippi ties minister of students at Colonial Hills received degrees from New Orleans Church, Southaven. Seminary during commencement ceremonies Dec. 20. They are:
With the associate of divinity, Carl

William Myers, Poplarville. With the master of divinity, Mark Robinson, Shreveport, La., now pastor of Northside Church, Vicksburg; Mike A. Gonzalez, Biloxi, associate pastor and minister of youth at Riverside Church, Riverside, La.; Michael J. Reid, Jayess, pastor of Topeka Church, Jayess; Sylvia Laureen Gore, Houston, Texas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Gore of Clinton; and Dyer Harbor, Muscle Shoals, Ala.,

With the master of arts in Christian education, Ronald Leneil West Jr., Hattiesburg, associate pastor of Foster Road Church, Baton Rouge, La.; Ronnie Irwin, Brookhaven, minister of music and activities at Centreville Church, Centreville; and Cindy M. Townsend, Jackson, minister of students at First Church, Jackson O dime? donnel albra?

With the master of church music, Myron David Burris, Meridian; and Charles Martin, Aberdeen, minister of music at First Church, Batesville.

## Just for the Record

Gum Grove Church, Brookhaven, will host the Magnolia State Quartet, Sunday, Jan. 12, at 5:45 p.m. A fellowship will follow the concert. Sammy McDonald is pastor.

West River Baptist Resort Ministries of South Dakota is looking for innovators and youth/adult groups for short/long term summer ministry. The opportunities are many but the workers are few. Respond to Resort Ministries, 211 E. St. Joseph, Rapid City, SD 57701, or call (605) 343-5967.

Calvary Baptist Church, a congregation of 90 people in Lago Patria, Italy, near Naples, is in need of a pastor. The congregation is comprised mainly of people connected with the American military. The church, in a mission setting, is affiliated with the European Baptist Convention (English Language) and is based on principles and doctrines of the Southern Baptist Convention. Resume and audio tape may be sent to: Paul R. Smith, AFSOUTH PSC 813, Box 149, FPO AE 09620-8000.

First Church, Lambert, will sponsor "The Feminine Touch," a seminar for Christian women, Jan. 24-25. Mrs. Pat Quesenbury, author of the seminar and founder of Creative Living Ministries, Dallas, Texas, will lead the conference, which will appeal to women from all walks of life. The conference will be held Friday, Jan. 24, from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. and will resume Saturday, Jan. 25, from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. with a break for lunch. (Each person will need to take a sack lunch; drinks will be provided.) The cost is \$10 for registration, plus \$10 for materials. For more information, contact Mrs. Ann Huber at 326-7336, or call the office of First Church, Lambert, 326-7772.

"WHAT KEPT YOU?" - ARCTIC CIRCLE EVANGELISTS got an unexpected rebuke after a trip to take the gospel to a remote people living in the frozen north. Returning from their first contact with the Nenets of northern-most Russia — among whom there are no known Christians — they were asked: "Why didn't you come and tell about this before?" Now the slap on the wrist - to a Youth With A Mission team from Norway - has become a rallying cry to see churches and mission agencies doing more work with unreached people groups. Since that encounter subsequent teams have seen the first conversions among the Nenets themselves, and a Norwegian couple are currently studying the language so that they can go and help found the church. Around 30,000 Nenets — related to the Lapp peoples, with whom they have traditionally shared reindeer breeding as a livelihood — live in the tundra region, where in parts there are sub-zero temperatures and snow almost all year round. Although Russian Orthodox missionaries went to the region 150 years ago, beliefs were mixed with the Nenets' old pagan religions, leaving no established church or Christian witness.

HUNGARIAN BAPTISTS CALL FIRST /WORLD CONGRESS BUDAPEST, HUNGARY — Hungarian Baptists have announced their intention to hold the First World Congress of Hungarian Baptists Living in Diff ferent Countries of the World. The Congress will take place Aug. 22-23, 1992, in Budapest. According to an explanatory statement by Kornel Gyori, General Secretary of the Union, Hungarian Baptists are dispersed throughout the world. Over the years, many have moved to other countries and their churches and Union have lost contact with them. Interested persons, families or groups should request further information from the Congress office: 1378 Budapest, P. Bos 5., Hungary, or by telephoning Budapest, 112 7626 or 132 2332. Congress telefax in Budapest: 131 0194.

EUROPEAN BAPTIST YOUTH WILL BE BUSY IN SUMMER '92: SHEF-FIELD, ENGLAND — "Cliff Hangers" is the theme chosen for the 1992 International Baptist Youth Camp, an annual event sponsored by the European Baptist Federation Youth Committee. The theme is related to the name of the venue for the Youth Camp, Cliff College near Sheffield. The dates are July 13-18 and July 18-25, 1992. John Passmore, Derek Clark, and Ian Hoskins, of Great Britain will lead the first week's program. During the second week, participants will divide into "task forces" of 4-6 people. These small groups will take part in evangelistic and practical projects, to be organized by cooperating local churches, Interested persons should apply through the National Youth Officer Iain Hoskins, Baptist House, P.O. Box 44, 129 Broadway, GB-0X11 8RT Didcot, Oxon, England.

WANTED IN SPAIN: BAPTIST YOUTHS: BARCELONA, SPAIN — Baptist youths are wanted in Spain — fortunately, not by Spanish police. The European Baptist Federation Youth Committee has endorsed the participation of pean Baptist Federation Youth Committee has endorsed the participation of European Baptist youths in the Spanish Baptist Union's evangelistic activities which will take place during of the '92 Olympic Games in Barcelona. Young people will cooperate with local Baptists in numerous evangelistic projects in and around the Olympic venues. They will distribute Bibles and gospel portions, and they will take part in our ministry-related activities. Dates for the project are July 20-Aug. 9, 1992. The charge for taking part is DM 34 (US \$20) per day, including room and board. The age limit is 18-25 years. For more information, write Nico Wever, EBF Youth Committee Secretary, Box 405, NL - 9200 Drachten, the Netherlands. Tel.: 05120 15687. Fax: 05120 17779.

## Revival dates

Bethel Church, Columbus: Jan. 10-12; services, Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; J. Garland McKee, director of Evangelism Devention Board, speaker; David L. Brooks, pastor.

First Church, Rosedale: Jan. 19-23; Lucius B. Marion, interim pastor, First Church, Shelby, evangelist; John Clendinning, Immanuel Church, Cleveland, music; services, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., Mon-Thurs., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. David E. Sartin, pastor.

Thompson Hill Mission, 2 miles west of McLain: Jan. 5-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Charles M. Ball, pastor, Faith Church, Oxford, Ala., evangelist; Paul Z. Ball, interim pastor.

#### Churches adopt Expanded Annuity Plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the December 5 issue of the Baptist Record: Hinds-Madison: Christ Tabernacle; Lawrence: New Hope; and Lowndes:

# Names in the news



First Church of Ridgeland recently honored its pastor and staff with a speci recognition service and a luncheon. Sarah Grantham presented appreciation gifts and a historical account of each staff member's contributions to the church. Pictured, left to right, are Charles Fowler, associate pastor, minister of music, youth director; Ed Griffin, pastor, who was recognized for 12 years of service; Carol Stepp, financial secretary; Pat Truesdale, education secretary; Vicki DeMoney, weekday ministries director; Kaye Kelly, pianist; Francis Allen, organist; Linda Fason, weekday ministries assistant director; and Joy Ellis, organist.

David Winfrey, religion news reporter for a daily newspaper in Greenville, S.C., has been named associate director of news and information for the Home Mission Board in Atlanta. Winfrey, 25, succeeds Mark Wingfield who resigned in July to become news director of the Western Recorder, newsjournal of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Gulfport

Mississippi alumni of New Orleans Seminary recently elected Ken Anderson, of Saltillo, as president; Eugene Dobbs, of Clinton, as president-elect; and J. Roy McComb, of Columbia, as secretary of their states N.O.B.T.S. Alumni Association.

1908 - State wide prohibition law was enacted in Mississippi.



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## Lotz tells graduates to avoid being 'peddlers'

By Pat Cole

# Romanians applaud seminary defunding

By Erich Bridges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) - The Baptist Union of Romania's general council has taken a stand supporting the defunding of the Baptist seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, by trustees of the Foreign Mission Board.

The Romanian Baptist leaders met Nov. 26 and "agreed to this decision" of the FMB trustees, according to a letter dated Dec. 10 and signed by Vasile Talos and Nic Gheorghita. Talos is president and Gheorghita is general secretary of the union, the largest Baptist group in Europe with 160,000 members, according to Baptist World Alliance statistics for 1988

The letter was addressed to Paul Thibodeaux, the Foreign Mission Board's associate director for mission work in eastern Europe.

The Dec. 10 letter from Talos and Gheorghita said: "The Baptist Union of Romania had a grieving experience with (the Ruschlikon) seminary: one of our pastors, the only graduate from Ruschlikon, after his coming back to the country, had a negative influence in the Baptist Union of Bucharest and in some churches as well," the letter stated.

"Eventually the church he ministered (to) asked him to resign for immorality . .

The letter also said professors from Ruschlikon who taught in a Romanian Baptist seminary and churches "some years ago . . . squeezed doubts in their lectures that the Bible is entirely the Word of God.

"These experiences robbed the good reputation of the Ruschlikon seminary in Romania."

The Romanians subsequently decided to concentrate on developing their own two theological schools in Bucharest and Oradea and "not to send students to Ruschlikon in the future," the letter said.

The letter concluded that the Romanian union council "welcomes and appreciates" the decision by the Foreign Mission Board to "support the biblical institutes from the East European countries." The decision is "very important and more efficient for God's work in these countries.

The letter was received by Baptist Press but had not reached Thibodeaux, to whom it was addressed, or the Europe office of the Foreign Mission Board by Dec. 18. Repeated attempts by Baptist Press to reach Romanian Baptist leaders for further interpretation of the statement were unsuccessful.

Contacted for comment, Thibodeaux responded: "I don't think you can blame Ruschlikon for individual sins or immorality (of former students).... The case that they cite I'm aware of, and I know of the problems, but in no way could one say that it was Ruschlikon's doing."

As to professors from Ruschlikon teaching unbiblically in Romania, 'We've never heard that until this day," Thibodeaux said. "It has never been expressed to us - the representatives who have traveled there consistently over the years and who have had fraternal relationships with the Romanian union on behalf of the Foreign Mission Board and Southern Baptists — until this issue surfaced with the defunding of Ruschlikon....If these had been valid arguments in years past they would have surfaced. It's strange to me that it only surfaces now."

Thibodeaux added, however, the decision could be "closely linked" to the Romanians' hopes for more financial support for their own schools. He said he had been told by Romanian Baptist leader Josif Ton that Ton hopes to raise \$2 million each for the two Romanian Baptist schools from Southern Baptists.

Ton, head of the Baptist Bible Institute in Oradea and pastor of Second Baptist Church there, indicated his own support for the defunding action in a Nov. 1 letter to FMB trustee chairman Bill Hancock. Hancock sent the letter to Baptist Press Dec. 12.

Ton congratulated the trustees for their decision to discontinue support for Ruschlikon, and recounted several instances of European students who he said had their faith shaken or destroyed at Ruschlikon by "liberal theologians.'

"I know (Ruschlikon president) John David Hopper has tried to steer the school in a new direction," Ton said. "But as far as we can see the school is dominated by liberal teachers and the European Baptist Federation is still unable to get clear from this deadly disease of unbelief

In the wake of the FMB trustees' Dec. 11 vote of 54-27 to take no further action on Ruschlikon, other European unions indicated they would discuss reaction during an already-scheduled meeting of European Baptist Federation representatives in mid-January. Leaders of many Baptist unions throughout Europe earlier wrote letters disapproving the action.

British Baptists earlier had said the defunding - if upheld - would damage Southern Baptists' relations with their British counterparts. British Baptist leader David Coffey told FMB officials after the Dec. 11 vote that Southern Baptist missionaries Gary and Delores Bishop (now on furlough) would be welcomed back but that no new missionaries would be requested.

German Baptists also had warned of negative consequences if the defunding action stood. In a Dec. 18 interview with European Baptist Press Service, Hans Guderian, home missions director for the German Baptist Union, said the Germans had not had time to discuss the action as a union.

Calls and letters continued to come in to Foreign Mission Board offices about the defunding action. By Dec. 18, the board has received 593 letters on the issue: 521 opposed the defun-

ding and 72 favoring it.
One pastor who called to oppose the decision said the Foreign Mission Board would face a "Chernobyl-class meltdown of support." The FMB trustees, he said, had shot themselves in a "much more sensitive spot than the foot." His church's Woman's Missionary Union leader intended to recommend the church redirect its entire \$14,000 Lottie Moon mission offering goal to the Ruschlikon seminary, he said.

A letter writer supporting the defunding action, however, commended the trustees, noting "nothing deadens God's work like liberalism and what you have exposed has probably been the problem all along .... Don't be discouraged, don't be intimidated, keep doing the job you were entrusted with."

Bridges writes for FMB.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) - The world needs more proclaimers and fewer "peddlers" of the gospel. That message was delivered to graduates of Southern Seminary in a Dec. 13 commencement address by Denton Art. Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance.

Peddlers of the gospel build up their own egos instead of proclaiming the message of Christ, Lotz said. "The peddler of the Word is always talking about himself," he said. "How many souls he was won. How many members in his church. How many cassettes he sent out. How many T.V. broadcasts. How much money he

makes . . . . He sings 'How Great I Am' instead of 'How Great Thou

Lotz told the 184 graduates of the Louisville, Ky., school the message of the peddler is propaganda not pro-clamation. "Propaganda is preaching that the individual must become like me, dress like me, and act like me before he can believe," he said. "Proclamation on the other hand is so preaching the gospel in the power of the Spirit that the individual puts his faith in Jesus Christ and in the freedom of the gospel and becomes what God wants him to become."

Propagandists, Lotz added, are across the theological spectrum.

"It's too easy of a cop out to try to isolate propaganda on the right or the left," he said. "It's everywhere."

The ministry is the "greatest vocation in the world," he said.

The world needs ministers who are willing to "respond to God's call in

willing to "respond to God's call in Jesus Christ to give up everything for-

The peddler gives up nothing but "sells the gospel" for wealth and prestige, Lotz stressed: "The sacrifice is gone, the challenge is gone, the zeal for Christ and the cross are lost, and the desire to succeed in the eyes of the world is being a famous or well-known preacher.

Cole writes for Southern Seminary.

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# Obedient to God's purpose — resist temptations



# WORK

By Lola M. Autry

Matthew 4:1-11, 17

Vance Havner once told of a little boy who was a terror in Sunday School. When the child finally dropped out no one made an effort to bring him back. One day the little boy, carrying an instrument case under his arm, met his former pastor. Running to him the child said, "They gave me a fiddle for being good." Sensing the pastor's thoughts the little boy said, "I'm gooder than I used to be." Are we "gooder" than we used to be? How do we stand when temptaI. Jesus was fasting in the wilderness (vv. 1-2). Jesus was hungry. He had fasted 40 days and 40 nights. He was vulnerable where food was concerned. The devil knew this. Satan knows our weaknesses and attacks us where we are vulnerable, but unlike Jesus, we often succumb. In his humanity, he was subject to all types of temptations that beset us. How was he able to overcome them?

II. The first temptation (vv. 3-4). The devil challenged Jesus' claim to be the son of God, even though he knew who Jesus was. Often we are challenged to prove we are children of the Messiah-King. I John 2:16 states three types of temptations that come to God's people. The lust of the flesh is one of them. The devil said to Jesus, "If thou be the son of God command these stones to be made bread." He was appealing to 40 days of being without food — the lust of the flesh. Hunger has one of the strongest of pulls on human life. Jesus, in overcoming the devil, quoted Deut. 8:3. Being able to recall pertinent Scriptures at times of temptation is a

strong weapon against sin.

III. The second temptation (vv. 5-7), Again Satan challenges Jesus' deity. "If thou be the Son of God . . . ." Often he says to us, "Do you really belong to Jesus? Are you truly God's child?" How do we respond? The devil challenged Jesus. In simple words he said, "If you are God's Son you can throw yourself down from the pinnacle and you won't be hurt. The angels will take care of you." Do you, as a Christian, honestly think the angels will take care of you when you willfully sin? Jesus knew better, too. This was a mind temptation. The eyes are the light of the mind, so this became another of the types of temptation listed in I John - the lust of the eyes. Jesus' answer to Satan is found

IV. The third temptation (vv. 8-11). "The devil took Jesus up into an exceeding high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them." Note, he did not challenge Jesus' position as God's Son this time. He simply made him a rash promise. The devil

promises many things ne cannot accomplish. The world was not his to offer. It belonged to Jesus, its Creator. Satan, however, was appealing to Christ's humanity. The devil's purpose in wanting Jesus to sin was to make him incapable of giving himself as a sacrifice for the sins of others. The promise he made to Jesus was calculated to appeal to the third of the group mentioned in I John — the pride of life. Satan appeals to us in many ways, with rash promises strewn with glitter and beauty and power. Lighted by the devil's neon brilliance they cause many Christians to be successfully tempted. Jesus was ready to rebuke Satan's attempts to corrupt him. Our Lord resisted and overcame. When we resist temptations we do not sin. We

are only afflicted by their presence.

To quote Vance Havner once again: "The Lord's sheep have no business in back alleys with the devil's goats." Let's treat temptations with the contempt due them and shun them as we would the devil himself. He is their Author.

Autry lives in Hickory Flat.

# Israel's unfaithfulness brings God's judgment



### BIBLE BOOK

By Charles E. Nestor

Amos 3:1-4:13 We begin the study of the second main section of the book of Amos, which is composed of Chapters 3-6. This section is a collection of pro-

phetic sayings but they provide an outline of the main themes of Amos' ministry.

God has issued a call to Israel to repent from

their sins, but they have refused. Due to this continued sin, God pronounces judgment through the witness of Amos. This just further emphasizes the futility of man when he continues to ignore the instructions of God. Sin has a payday and we will observe that in our study of Israel's unfaithful service and the ultimate judgment of God.

I. The responsibility of election (3:1-2). God had a covenant with his people Israel. He had delivered them from Egyptian bondage and brought them into the Promised Land. The message brought to them by Amos was that their position and place in God's redemptive plan did not grant them the right or privilege to disobey the will of God. God promised they would be punished for their sins

The fact that we are members of God's family does not convey any special privileges which allow us to disobey his will. Instead, it places a heavy responsibility on us to present ourselves each day as living sacrifices to his ministry. In Luke 12:48 Jesus states a principle related to this subject. He said, "Every one to whom much is given, of him will much be required." Israel had received much. They were redeemed from slavery to freedom. We have received much. We have been redeemed from eternal separation from God and placed in his family by faith in our Savior, Jesus Christ. God will hold us accountable for our faithfulness.

II. The certainty of the prophet's word (3:7-8). A prophet is one who speaks for God. Amos used rhetorical questions to make clear the message he spoke was commanded by God. Amos was not speaking on behalf of himself. The only message he had was from God.

We only have one message today and that is Jesus Christ who was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, was crucified, and rose from the dead. That is the message God has commissioned his people to take to the world. This is the only message we can speak with authority.

III. God's judgment against the wealthy women (4:1-3). The sins of these women were twofold. They had oppressed the poor and were drinking heavily. Their life of luxury was at the expense of the poor and Amos' message was that they would be carried away to judgment. God will not tolerate such abuse. There is also what we might call sin by association. That is, these women demanded their masters bring them drink. Apparently their masters further oppressed the poor to support the women's

In our day it would apply to the drug pushers and the distributors of alcohol. They may never consume the product themselves, but think of the lives they have affected. It would also apply to one who participates in gossip, etc. that erodes the character of another. We will be accountable to God for our actions.

IV. The sin of empty ritual (4:4-5). Even their worship had become sinful acts. They were worshipping for the glory of self rather than God. When this occurs worship becomes hollow,

unreal, and powerless to bless the worshipper. God desires obedience rather than costly gifts. Men are often inclined to give more freely in services where self is reflected more than God. The message is the same to our day. We are to worship God and him only.

V. Israel's failure to learn (4:10-11). After all the acts of judgment and grace, Israel had still not learned their lesson. They continued to resist the efforts of God to draw them back. We have the same problem. After all that our nation and the world have gone through in the re-cent conflict, our renewed commitment was short lived. We resist God's efforts to lead us in being faithful servants.

VI. A warning of God's coming judgment (4:12). The certainty of judgment is the basis of a call to repent. That is the only way to avoid judgment. Israel's call to prepare for a meeting with God is not the judgment after death, rather it is the destruction of the Northern Kingdom. There is, however, from for future application of Amos' prophecy. We are to be prepared for the coming of the Lord. Jesus reminded us to be ready for the coming of the Son of man. The only way we can prepare for that day is to repent of sin and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Nestor is pastor, First Church, Bruce.

# Song of gratitude — count your many blessings



#### UNIFORM

By Bobby Williamson

Psalm 103

A familiar hymn says, "Count your many blessings name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done." A question we should all ask ourselves is, Why should it

Herbert Lockyear tells us that if we were to count all of God's promises in the Word that we would find 66 per day, 365 days per year.

I would think one of the reasons for our amazement is our feeling of unworthiness. Our lesson this week from Psalm 103 teaches us very clearly that the Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. Who is worthy or deserving of all of the blessings we receive from God? In verses 1-5 the psalmist expresses gratitude and praise for the numerous blessings God has given him. As we begin a new year I can think of no better time to make a list of our blessings. For many of us this could take quite some time, but verse 2 of the 103rd Psalm reminds us to "forget not

all his benefits." In order to return our praises to God, there must be a grateful remembrance of those very things he has done for us. In praising and thanking God we should always be very specific. Generic prayer and praise for all of our blessings I believe by and large to be unjust and ungrateful. Let's do make a commitment this year to be specific in our thanks, naming them

Most of us are very adequate in our petitions to God, or in simply asking God to do something for us, but how adequate are we in our times of prayer and praise to God? I like to imagine that in heaven God has a basket for petition and a basket for our praise, and as I visualize the two baskets I can see the petition basket being always full, and the praise basket having very

In verse 6 the psalmist stresses that God executes righteousness and judgment for the oppressed. I find it interesting here that God does this for all. Once again we see a clear picture of God's grace and mercy. God did not pick and choose the oppressed he would help. We should all make application to our own lives by always being sensitive to the needs of the oppressed in our day and time. Maybe we should take this opportunity to give our encouragement to those on the benevolence committees in our churches. We might also offer our help when needs do

In verse 7-12 the psalmist celebrates God's great mercy and graciousness in forgiving transgressions. Isn't this a perfect example of how God deals with each of us? It is wonderful to know that God deals with us not on the basis of what we deserve, but on the basis of his grace

and mercy. Verse 9 though does tell us that God will not keep his anger forever. There is a fine line that each of us as Christians need to realize, so that we will not take God's graciousness for granted. Verse 13 is a verse that anyone as a parent should be able to relate to. The psalmist speaks of a father pitying his children, remembering that we are just dust. As the father of three boys I can recall numerous occasions where my boys have made mistakes, but because of my love for them I still ought to help them and meet their deepest needs. In verses 13-16 the psalmist acknowledges that we as humans are frail creatures and that physical life is brief. What can this mean to us? It should certainly inspire each of us to use each day to the fullest in God's service. Verse 17 is a verse that certainly can strengthen our confidence in God's willingness to forgive. This verse tells us of the everlasting mercy of God.

As we begin this new year let each of us recommit to thank God every day for the blessing of life and the grace and mercy he shows us. Today is also soul winning commitment day in our Southern Baptist Convention. Let each of us as Christians be thankful for our salvation, and pray today for a soul to lead to Christ.

Williamson is pastor, Park Place Church,

## China summer program needs ESL teachers

The Oral English Workshop at Jiangnan University in Wuxi, China, is seeking teachers for its four-week course in English as a Second Language, June 29-Aug. 10. These dates include a workshop at Mississip pi College, Clinton, travel to and from China, and the oral workshop in Wuxi.

Those interested in teaching should be Christian, and successfully complete the English 459 course, Teaching English as a Second Language. This course will be taught at Mississippi College on Monday nights beginning Jan. 20. Teaching experience is helpful, but not required. Participants will be personally responsible for travel expenses. Contact program coordinator Ted Snazelle, Mississippi College, Box 4045, Clinton, MS 39058; phone (601) 925-3339; home phone (601) 924-7559.

# "God does not let go"

By Shannon T. Simpson

A lifestyle witness overcame dif-ficult odds to make a difference in a young Nashville woman's life.

That young woman is now nightly news anchor for WLOX-TV in Biloxi, and a member of First Church,

Gurvir Dhindsa, 30, is the daughter of Indian Sikh parents. Experienced Interfaith witness team members say it is very rare for Sikhs to convert to Christianity. Sikhism, an amalgam of Hindu and Islam, is the predominant religion in the Dhindsas' native

Gurvir was born in that region in northeastern India, and moved with her parents to the United States as a small child. She grew up in Nashville, where her father is director of the Tennessee School for the Blind, and her mother is a teacher. There she met Debbie Wilkinson, daughter of Keith Wilkinson, director of the Sunday School Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Through Debbie and a group of Christian friends, Gurvir was exposed to the Christian life, attended church activities, and ultimately "got down on her knees and gave her life

to God" while a senior in high school.
"When I was 16, I first told my parents that I was thinking about becoming a Christian," she remembers. "They were hurt. They saw that desire as my turning away from their customs and culture.

"You must understand that Indian families are very protective, and my

parents and I are very close. I don't to fit in." want to give the impression that they were some monsters, either, because they weren't. They were the best parents. But even though they did not devoutly practice their faith, they didn't want me to become a Christian. My family thought I was only attracted to Christianity because all my friends were Christians."

Though only slightly discouraged, she decided to keep her faith under wraps. It was not until she turned 18 that she made public her profession.

Keith Wilkinson recalls when Gurvir got her first broadcasting job at a Jackson TV station, she looked him up: "Typical of Gurvir, she had already made up her mind that she wanted to get involved in a church. So, she walked right into my office and asked me which was a good congregation. She ended up at First Church, Jackson, and was baptized there."

"God does not let go," Gurvir says emphatically. "He wanted me to be with those friends, and to be a Christian, and he did not let my parents' disappointment undo my desire. Everything happens for a reason. I truly believe that."

She recalls her friends never tried to push their faith on her. "I just saw what they had in their lives, the peace about what God had for them, and I

wanted it so bad!"

As the oldest of three girls, she ran into resistance from her sisters. They also saw her conversion as a rejection of her Indian heritage, "doing it to try

But, her middle sister is now a Christian, too. "Like I said, God doesn't let go," she laughs.

Gurvir now uses her career in the public eye to carry out her own brand of lifestyle witness. She often takes speaking opportunities with civic and student organizations to spread the good news that there is a plan in life, and a divine Author to that plan.

"My favorite groups to work with are students and young people," she says, "especially since I was young when I came to the Lord. But they need so much encouragement, and they need to know that you can live in the world and be part of it, and still maintain your faith."

Part of her lifestyle witness was carried out in November, when Gurvir spoke to the convention of Mississippi Baptists at First Church, Jackson, as one of the "How I Met Jesus" testimonies.

There, she pressed the importance of lifestyle witness with this statement: "If you don't believe that people look at you and the way that you live your lives, you are wrong!"
She maintains her close friendships

with those who witnessed to her and led her to the Lord, and continues to marvel at the plan at work in her life. "It just amazes me," she says, "how God works things out so beautifully. Everything has a purpose. I know now that God has me where I am to bring glory to him."



Gurvir Dhindsa exchanges greetings with a member of Hattiesburg's Temple Church choir after the Wednesday morning session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. There Gurvir delivered a testimony on "How I Met Jesus."

# Bereaved parents look beyond manger to tomb

DALLAS (BP) — Jeremy Taylor Mauldin was scheduled to play the part of a baby born to die for man's sins. Instead, through his own death, he pointed others to a deepened faith in the Risen Christ.

Jeremy was dedicated to the Lord publicly at Inglewood Church, Grand Prairie, Texas, on the first Sunday in December. That same day, his parents were asked if they would allow him to portray the baby Jesus in the church choir's Christmas pageant on Dec. 14 and 15.

On the Wednesday before the scheduled performance, Jeremy performance, Jeremy performance in the male in deeps responsed the male in deeps responsed.

formed the role in dress rehearsal, resting in the manger under the watchful eye of his father, who was play-

ing the part of Joseph.

The next morning, James Mauldin gave Jeremy his 5 a.m. bottle, and he remembers as he left for work hearing his son stir a bit. But at 9:30 a.m., Robin Mauldin found her tiny son dead in his crib, the apparent victim of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Jeremy was buried on Dec. 14, one day before he would have turned two

A few hours after many of the In-glewood Church choir members attended Jeremy's funeral, they presented the first performance of their scheduled Christmas pageant.

"During that song when the baby Jesus was supposed to be there, you could see tears streaming down the faces of choir members," said J.R. Chaney, pastor of Inglewood Church.

The following morning, Jeremy's parents and his three years ald

parents and his three-year-old brother, Joshua, attended the morning worship service. Although he considered changing his topic, Chaney stuck with his announced text.

"After discussing the provision God has made for His people, I tried to hit some practical things we can do to magnify the meaning of Christmas," he said. "One was to say the things you really want to say and share the things you really want to share with those you love while there is still

Though it was an emotional experience, that night the Mauldins attended the Christmas pageant, dedicated by the choir to Jeremy's

"I was most affected when Mary sang the song she had sung a few nights before to Jeremy," James

Mauldin said. "But we smiled all the way through the evening. God gave us such a peace."

Robin Mauldin said she felt almost as if Jeremy were present, "watching the whole thing with us."

Accompanying the Mauldins were several family members who had not attended church in many years. Other family members who belonged to another church but had not been faithful returned to worship services

on the day after Jeremy's funeral.

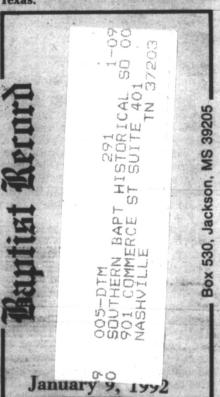
The Mauldins' example of a faith strengthened through adversity and their reliance on God's sustaining grace was an inspiration to all, according to Chaney.

But instead of focusing on the emp-

ty manger in the Christmas pagean James and Robin Mauldin prefer to dwell on the empty tomb and the assurance of God's love for children and all who come to him like little

"We know Jeremy's in a good place, that he's being taken care of and that he's happy," James said. "We know God will bring good out of this. He already has."

Camp is director of public relations for Baptist General Convention of



# Prayers of praise begin Maben women's early morning prayer hour

Early in the morning, as it began to dawn toward the third day of the week, came Ann Sansing, Sue Simmons, Gloria Poss, and Laura Fulgham to the home of Margaret Shuffield in Maben. They gathered at 6 a.m. as they had every Tuesday for a year and a half, to pray together, beginning with prayers of praise.

Already they had been out of bed long analysh to walk their tri weekly.

long enough to walk their tri-weekly three-mile stretch, reciting assigned Bible verses by memory as they walk-ed. On their arrival, Margaret had handed each one orange juice or

On the glass-enclosed back porch, dim circles of lamplight cast a glow to match the glow of joy on their faces. Beyond the perfectly landscaped yard, sunrise slowly rouged the sky, filling in orange background for the black lace of tall bare oaks.

The five women, members of Maben Church, in Tuesday morning prayer time were using PrayerLife as a textbook, a follow-up of MasterLife, with Laura Fulgham leading.

Mrs. Shuffield, regular hostess for the prayer group, is Woman's Missionary Union director at Maben Church. A widow, she owns a nursery and landscape business, along with her son, Lee. The two travel far and wide across the state, doing landcape designs. One church where they landscaped and have maintained the grounds is First, Philadelphia. Her own yard, certainly a worthy can-didate for the pages of Better Homes and Gardens, is a testimony to her ar-

By Anne W. McWilliams "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God tistry with plants, and her house pro-almighty, early in the morning my song shall rise to thee. . ." ing communication with the Master

Meeting 45 minutes to an hour, the women pray for needs: for the ill, as a 19-year-old injured in an accident; for the lost; for the church staff, including Gloria's husband, who is the Maben pastor, Randle Poss; for government leaders, including Sue's husband, Cecil Simmons, who is speaker pro tem for the state House of Representatives; for other church families and for their own families; for missionaries; or for whatever needs that week have come to their

They say that these weekly prayer meetings have made them more conscious of the need to pray constantly, and of the importance of prayer itself. - so much closer."

Recently, when the pastor mentioned a particular concern of his, two of them went to his office and led in

special prayer for him.

Answers have been as numerous as prayers. Recently they prayed that a leader for Missions Friends might be found. In response, Sue Simmons volunteered. Mrs. Simmons is a medical doctor and a lawyer. She is the mother of two small children, busy with home and work activities, and in many church jobs. Yet she of-fered to lead the missionary organization for children.

What has this time of prayer meant to them?

"It's so refreshing," said Margaret. "I don't know why we didn't begin it

Added Gloria, "Our bond of love is



Gathered for early morning prayer in Maben are, left to right, Ann Sansing, Sue Simmons, Margaret Shuffield, Gloria Poss, and Laura Fulgham.